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Arab-Israeli Talks

Israel's Rabin, Jordan's King Husayn Address Congress

King Husayn Speaks

JN2607163494 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1512 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Speech by King Husayn of Jordan to a joint session of the U.S. Congress in Washington, D.C.—live]

[Text] Mr. Speaker; Mr. President; Honored guests; Members of Congress; Ladies and gentlemen: It is an honor for me to stand before you, the representatives of the great American nation, on this historic occasion. We have now become partners in shaping the future of all our peoples. We seek for them a future of peace, stability, and security, the prospects for which are growing before our eyes. It is a heartwarming sight for those of us who have continuously pursued this goal throughout our lives. [applause]

We in Jordan have always sought a bold peace. We have been conscious of our responsibilities towards the coming generations to ensure that they will have the certainty of leading a dignified and fulfilled life. We have sought a peace that can harness their creative energies to allow them to realize their true potential and build their future with confidence, devoid of fear and uncertainty. None of this can be achieved without establishing a direct dialogue at the highest level of leadership. [applause]

This meeting in Washington at the invitation of President Clinton represents the beginning of a new phase in our common journey towards peace between Jordan and Israel. [applause] It is a milestone on the road toward comprehensive peace in our region. This meeting was preceded by a trilateral Jordanian-American-Israeli meeting, at which my brother Crown Prince Hasan represented myself and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres represented Israel. The trilateral working group was established under an agreement completed at the meeting hosted by President Clinton at the White House in October 1993. Following my recent visit to the United States, in light of the status of negotiations, I decided to share with my people the realities affecting our search for peace. In a meeting with members of our Parliament, I addressed the entire Jordanian nation. I have been rewarded by their approval and support. Their expression of confidence has always been the foremost consideration in my life. All of Jordan is here with me today. [applause]

We also remember today the three generations of gallant Jordanians and so many others who sacrificed themselves for the cause of Palestine. Every household in Jordan has sent a son to answer the Arab call. Many have not returned. Their sacrifice has made it possible for me to be here today.

My family has also paid a heavy price. My great grandfather, the leader of the Great Arab Revolt for freedom, independence, and unity lies buried next to the blessed al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem. I was by the side of my grandfather, King 'Abdallah, at the doors of al-Aqsa Mosque when he was martyred. He was a man of peace who gave his life for this ideal. I have pledged my life to fulfilling his dream. He too is here today. [applause]

Mr. Speaker. In our meeting today, I hope you will find a clear message to the American nation and to the world. We are together committed to work tirelessly, to banish forever the abnormal conditions which have dominated our peoples' lives. We want normality and humanity to become the prevailing order. [applause]

Although we have labored for so long under conditions of hostility, I am certain that we can see these conditions for what they are—emblems of an unnatural and sinister state. We have all known the portents of this state. The fear of death. The silence of isolation. And we have all felt the fear that has mesmerized us, preventing us from moving forward to create together a bright future for the coming generations. What we are witnessing today, God willing, is a progression from a state of war to a state of peace. [applause]

These unique circumstances allow us to take bold steps. Our meeting now represents a revolt against all that is unnatural. It is unnatural not to have direct and open meetings between our respective officials and their leaders in order to grapple with all aspects of the conflict and, God willing, to resolve them.

It is unnatural not to wish to bridge this gulf across which we have all paid a shattering toll in blood and tears, the waste of our youth, and the grief of our forefathers. We have suffered this loss together, and it will leave its impact on all of us far into the future.

The two Semitic peoples, the Arabs and the Jews, have endured bitter trials and tribulations during the journey of history. Let us resolve to end this suffering for ever and to fulfill our responsibilities as leaders of our peoples, and our duty as human beings towards mankind. [applause]

I come before you today, fully conscious of the need to secure a peace for all the children of Abraham. [applause] Our land is the birthplace of the divine faiths and the cradle of the heavenly messages to all humanity. I also come before you today as a soldier who seeks to bear arms solely in the defense of his homeland, a man who understands the fears of his neighbors, and who wishes only to live in peace with them, [applause] a man who wishes to secure democracy, political pluralism, and human rights for his nation. [applause]

I come before you today encouraged in the knowledge that the prime minister of Israel and his government have responded to the call for peace. They have recognized the Palestinian people and their rights, and are

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negotiating with their chosen leadership in accordance with United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. For our part, we will never forget Palestine, not for a moment.

We in Jordan were the first to shoulder our responsibility, and we were the most adversely affected by the legacy of the Palestinian tragedy. And still our people in Jordan remain one united family—irrespective of their origins—sharing equally, free to choose their political future and destiny.

My religious faith demands that sovereignty over the holy places in Jerusalem reside with God and God alone. Dialogue between the faiths should be strengthened. Religious sovereignty should be accorded to all believers of the three Abrahamic faiths in accordance with their religions. In this way, Jerusalem will become the symbol of peace and its embodiment, as it must be for both Palestinians and Israelis when their negotiations determine the final status of Arab East Jerusalem. I come before you today fully confident that progress will be made on the Syrian-Israeli and Lebanese-Israeli tracks of the peace process and towards the achievement of comprehensive peace.

Mr. Speaker: The state of war between Israel and Jordan is over. [applause] We have accepted United Nations Security Council Resolution 338, which calls for negotiations between the parties concerned under appropriate auspices to establish a just and durable peace in the Middle East. We have accepted United Nations Security Council Resolution 242, which sought acknowledgement of the sovereignty, territorial integrity, and political independence of every state in the area and their right to live in peace within secure and recognized boundaries free from threats or acts of force. [applause]

I want to reaffirm without any reservation that we together with other parties concerned had exercised our sovereign right to make peace. We are moving forward and tackling one by one all the problems listed in our common agenda.

We have great faith in our joint progress towards the ultimate goal, the culmination of all our efforts: A Jordanian- Israeli peace treaty. [applause]

In this, we take courage from the words of God in His holy book, the Koran: "Then, if they should be inclined to make peace, do thou incline towards it also, and put thy trust in Allah. Surely, it is He who is all-hearing, all-knowing."

Mr. Speaker: I value the long friendship between Jordan and the United States inherited from the era of my grandfather. I have sought, over thirty-four years, since the presidency of Dwight Eisenhower, to ensure that it be honest and true. It has been a friendship built on mutual respect, and common interests. I am proud to remind you how we stood shoulder to shoulder during the long years of the Cold War. And now together, we share a great hope: To establish a lasting peace in the Middle East. [applause]

We believe that an enduring partnership for cooperation and development between Jordan and the United States is essential to the realization of this dream. We aim to build a better future under peace to change the pattern of life for our people from despair and hopelessness to honor and dignity. We want to fashion a new commonwealth of hope on our ancient soil. We want all voices to be heard in shaping a new regional order. If we are to achieve our aims, all of us must be given the opportunity and the tools to play our part in this historic endeavor. The creative drive of our region has been crippled by the conflict. The healing hand of the international community is now essential. It should never be forgotten that peace resides ultimately not in the hands of governments, but in the hands of the people.

For unless peace can be made real to the men, women, and children of the Middle East, the best efforts of negotiators will come to naught.

Mr. Speaker; Mr. President: I have come before you today to demonstrate that we are ready to open a new era in our relations with Israel. With the help and cooperation of this august body, the peace we all want can be achieved. With your help, I am certain that the imbalances between our societies can be remedied, and that the sources of frustration and enmity can be eradicated. It is in this spirit, and with these hopes that I share this platform with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. [applause]

To all of you, and to the American people, I offer my thanks for your kindness, hospitality, and for all your support. May God bless you all. May God's peace, mercy, and blessings be upon you. [preceding sentence in Arabic] [applause]

Rabin Speaks

TA2607170494 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1532 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Address by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to a joint session of the U.S. Congress in Washington, D.C.—live, in English]

[Text] Mr. Speaker, Mr. President, distinguished members of the Congress, His Majesty the King of Jordan. I start by the Jewish word: Shalom.

Each year on memorial day for the fallen of Israel's wars, I go to the cemetery of Mount Herzl in Jerusalem. Facing me are the graves, the headstones, the colorful flowers blooming on them, and thousands of pairs of weeping eyes. I stand there in front of that large silent crowd and read in their eyes the words of the young dead soldiers, as the famous American poet, Archibald MacLeish, entitled the poem from which I take these lines. I quote: They

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say: Whether our lives and our death were for peace and a new hope or for nothing, we cannot say; it is you who must say this.

Mr. Speaker, we have come from Jerusalem to Washington, because it is we who must say—and we are here to say: Peace is our goal; it's peace we desire. [applause]

With me here in this house today are my partners in this great dream, and allow me to refer to some Israelis that are with me here with you. 'Amiram Kaplan, whose first brother was killed in an accident, whose second brother was killed in a pursuit of terrorists, whose third brother was killed in war, and whose parents died of heartbreak. And today, he is a seeker of peace. Moshe Sason, who together with his father was an emissary to the talks with King 'Abdallah and to other missions of peace. Today, he is also an emissary of peace. With me, a classmate of mine from the elementary school—Hana Rivlin of Kibbutz Gesher which faces Jordan—who endured bitter fighting and lost a son in war. Today she looks out of her window onto Jordan, and wants the dream of peace to come true. Avraham Daskel, almost 90 years old, who worked for the Electric Company in Trans-Jordan and was privileged to attend the celebrations marking King Husayn's birth. He is hoping for peace in his lifetime. And Dani Mat, who fought against Jordan in the War of Independence, was taken prisoner of war, and devoted his life to the security of the State of Israel. He hopes that his grandchildren will never know war. And Mrs. Pnina Herzog, whose husband wove the first threads of political ties with Jordan. With us here, in this [words indistinct] the mayor of Elat, Mr. Gabi Qadosh, which touches the frontier with Jordan and will be a focus of common tourism. And Mr. Shim'on Kahaner, who fought against the Jordanians, memorializes his fallen comrades, and hopes that they will have been the last to fall. And Mr. Talal al-Qarnawi, the mayor of a Bedouin town in Israel, who looks forward to renewing the friendship with their brothers in Jordan. And Mr. David Qoren, a member of a kibbutz which was captured by the Jordanians in 1948, who awaits the day when the borders will be open. And Dr. Asher Sasar, a scholar who has done research on Jordan throughout his adult life. And Dr. Sharon Regev, whose father was killed while pursuing terrorists in the Jordan Valley and who yearns for peace with all his heart. Here they are before you. [applause] All of them wanted to come. Here they are before you, people who never rejoiced in the victories of war, but whose hearts are now filled with the joy in peace.

I have come here from Jerusalem on behalf of those thousands of bereaved families, though I haven't asked their permission. I stand here on behalf of the parents, who have buried their children, of the children who have no fathers, and of the sons and daughters who are gone but return to us in our dreams. I stand here today on behalf of those youngsters who wanted to live, to love, to build a home. I have come from Jerusalem in the name of our children, who began their lives with great hope, and are now names, graves, and memorial stones, old pictures in albums, fading clothes in the closets. Each year, as I stand before the parents whose lips are chanting Kaddish—the Jewish memorial prayer—ringing in my ears are the words of the same famous Archibald Macleish, who echoes the plea of the young dead soldiers—and I quote: They say: Relive you our death, give them their meaning.

Let us give them meaning, let us make an end to the bloodshed; let us make true peace; let us today be victorious in ending war. [applause]

Mr. Speaker, the debate goes on: Who shapes the face of history? Leaders or circumstances? My answer to you is: We all shape the face of history. We, the people, we, the farmers behind our plows, the teachers in our classrooms, the doctors saving lives, the scientists at our computers, the workers on the assembly line, the builders on our scaffolds. We, the mothers blinking back tears as our sons are drafted into the army. We, the fathers who stay awake at night, worried and anxious for our children's safety. We, Jews and Arabs, we Israelis and Jordanians, we the people—we shape the face of history. And we, the leaders, hear the voices and sense the deepest emotions and feelings of thousands and millions, and translate them into reality.

If my people did not desire peace so strongly, I would not be standing here today. And I am sure that if the children of Amman, and the soldiers of 'Irbid, and the women of al-Salt, and the citizens of al-'Aqabah did not seek peace, our partner in this quest, the king of Jordan, would not be here now shaking hands, calling for peace. [applause] We bear the responsibility, we have the power to decide, and we dare not miss this great opportunity. For it is the duty of the leaders to bring peace and wellbeing to their peoples. We are graced with the privilege of fulfilling the duty for our peoples. This is our responsibility.

The complex relations between Israel and Jordan have continued for a generation. Today, so many years later, we carry with us good memories of the special ties between your country, Your Majesty, and mine. And, we carry with us the grim reminders of the times we found ourselves at war. We remember the days of your grandfather, King 'Abdallah, who sought avenues of peace with the heads of the Jewish people and the leaders of the young State of Israel.

There is much work before us. We face psychological barriers. We face genuine practical problems. Walls of hostility have been built on the River Jordan, which runs between us. You in Amman and we in Jerusalem must bring down those barriers and walls, must solve those concrete problems. And, I am sure that we will do it. [applause]

Yesterday we took a giant step towards peace, which will embrace it all: borders and water; security and economics; trade without boycotts; tourism and environment; diplomatic relations. We want peace between

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countries, but above all, between human beings. [applause] Beyond the ceremonies, after the festivities, we will move on to the negotiations. They will not be easy, but when they are completed, a wonderful common future awaits us. The Middle East, the cradle of the great monotheistic civilizations—Judaism, Christianity, and Islam—the Middle East that was a valley of the shadow of death, will be a place where it is a pleasure to live there. [applause]

We live on the same stretch of land. The same rain nourishes our soil, the same hot wind parches our fields. We find shade under the same fig trees. We savor the fruit of the same green vine, we drink from the same well. Only a 70-minute journey separates these cities—Jerusalem and Amman—and 46 years. And just as we have been enemies, so can we [be] good and friendly neighbors. [applause]

Since it's unprecedented that in this joint meeting, two speakers will be invited, allow me to turn to His Majesty. Your Majesty, we have both seen a lot in our lifetime. We have both seen too much suffering. What will you leave to your children? What will I leave to my grandchildren? I've only dreams to build a better world, a world of understanding and harmony, a world in which it is a joy to live. This is not asking for too much. [applause] The State of Israel thanks you, thanks you for accepting our hand in peace, for your political wisdom and courage, for planting new hope in our hearts and in the hearts of your subjects, and the hearts of all peace-loving people.

And I know that you enjoy the highest esteem of the United States—this great America, which is helping the bold to make a peace of the brave. [applause]

From this hall that represents freedom, liberty, and democracy, I would like to thank President Clinton, to the former Presidents of the United States, to the Secretary of State Christopher, to former secretaries of state and former administrations, to you, the speaker, the vice president. And, we are more than thankful to you, the distinguished members of the Congress, representatives of the American people, and through you, to the wonderful people of America. [applause] I do so because no words can express our gratitude to you and to the American people for years of your generous support, understanding and cooperation, which was beyond compare in modern history. Thank you, America. God bless America. [applause]

Tomorrow I shall return to Jerusalem, the capital of the State of Israel and the heart of the Jewish people. Lining the road to Jerusalem are rusting bulks of metal, burned out, silent, cold. They are the remains of convoys which brought food and medicine to the war-torn and besieged city of Jerusalem 46 years ago. For many of Israel's citizens, their story is one of heroism, part of our national legend. For me and for my comrades-in-arms, every scrap of cold metal lying there by the wayside is a bitter memory. I remember it as though it was just yesterday. I remember them. I was their commander in war. For them, this ceremony has come too late. What endures are their children, their comrades; it's their legacy.

Allow me to make a personal note. I, military ID number 30743, retired general in the Israel Defense Forces in the past, consider myself to be a soldier in the army of peace today. I, who served my country for 27 years as a soldier, I say to you, Your Majesty, the king of Jordan; I say to you, our American friends: Today we are embarking on a battle which has no dead and no wounded, no blood and no anguish. This is the only battle which is a pleasure to wage—the battle for peace. [applause]

Tomorrow, on the way up to Jerusalem, thousands of flowers will cover the remains of those rusting armored vehicles—the ones that never made it to the city. Tomorrow, from those silent metal heaps, thousands of flowers will smile to us with the word peace, shalom.

In the Bible—our Book of Books—peace is mentioned in its various idioms 237 times. In the Bible, from which we draw our values and our strength, in the Book of Jeremiah, we find a lamentation from Rachel—Rahel the Matriarch. It reads: Refrain your voice from weeping and your eyes from tears, for their work shall be rewarded, sayeth the Lord. I will not refrain from weeping for those who are gone, but on this summer day in Washington, far from home, we sense that our work will be rewarded, as the prophet foretold.

The Jewish tradition calls for a blessing on every new tree, every new fruit, on every new season. Let me conclude with the ancient Jewish blessing that has been with us in exile and in Israel for thousands of years—and allow me to do it in Hebrew. Blessed are you, O Lord, who has preserved us, and sustained us, and enabled us to reach this time. [previous sentence recited in Hebrew followed by the English translation] God bless the peace. Thank you. [applause]

Rabin Calls For 'Unprecedented' Approach

TA2607195694 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1840 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Address by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin at Congressional dinner in Washington, D.C.—live, in English]

[Excerpts] Mr. Speaker, Vice President, the leadership of the Congress' two Houses; my partner for this affair, His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan; distinguished members of the Congress; the Jordanians, the Israelis who attend it.

No doubt we made yesterday a big step towards peace. I believe the ceremony of the signing of the Declaration of Washington, the presence today on Capital Hill, commit ourselves—Jordan and Israel—to fulfill what we have signed and what is written on the paper that we have

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signed. We have taken upon ourselves a great commitment: Not just an end of war, of the state of belligerency, but building relations of peace. It's very important to end war, to end the state of belligerency. Whoever experienced to see the painful price of the lack of existence of nonbelligerency, will understand how it is important to commit not to use force, to act against any attempt to use force as a means of solution of political differences. And, therefore, for me it was a major step, a major step that will reduce violence in the region that, unfortunately, has a long history of violence between not only Israelis and Arab countries, but all through the region—violence which has spread out of the Middle East to other parts of the world: Buenos Aires a week ago, London today. Therefore, whoever doesn't understand the meaning of commitment to the non-use of force, to end of state of belligerency in the context of the Middle East, doesn't know how important it is to shift the solution of all conflicts in the region from battlefields, from violence in the street, from terror to the negotiation table. This is the major step towards peace, and this is the importance of the Declaration of Washington yesterday.

I wish that there would be other leaders in the Middle East of Arab Muslim countries that will follow the unique decision and act of King Husayn, the king of Jordan. [applause] But, we know it's very important, as I explained, it's a precondition for peace to have nonbelligerency, no more war. But, to make it stable, to make it long-standing, there is a need to build a structure of peace, relations of peace—and this is what we face: Jordan under the leadership of King Husayn, and the Government of Israel.

I can assure you that on this step that we made together with Jordan, with the assistance of the United States, there is no opposition in Israel. There is a national consensus, and the leader of the opposition came up in support—and I am not accustomed to it in the last two years. But, as far as steps towards peace with Jordan, there are no basic differences in Israel. All the major political parties are in support—those in power and those not in power. And therefore, we have made a great step, but still, the building of the structure and relations of peace is ahead of us. This will be our test. [passage omitted]

Everybody speaks about the peace of the brave. Without the United States' assistance, there would have been no peace 15 years ago with Egypt. Without your assistance, it would be very difficult to implement the Declaration of Principles that we signed with the Palestinians. And allow me to say with all frankness: Without your assistance, it will be very difficult to go forward with Jordan in building the structure of peace. I know there are many problems, but in the 26 years that I first came here as a representative of Israel, then as ambassador, I found that in the halls of this unique, great institution, there is always on the one hand, the understanding that domestic immediate problems have to be solved, but without losing the role of this unique, great institution that sees values, global ones, to be supported, and by that to fulfill the unique role of the United States in the world in the past, and the present, and in the future. Without U.S. leadership in the achievement of goals that derive from your values, there will be no tranquillity, no peace. I am not talking about military involvement, I am talking about assistance for peace, building a structure of peace.

I believe that on the one hand, you have the commitment of Jordan and Israel to go on after what we signed yesterday, to focus on building a structure of peace. You made unprecedented act by inviting more than one speaker to a joint meeting of the two houses. I was told that it is unprecedented. I hope that your approach to the solution towards peace in the Middle East will be also unprecedented. Thank you very much.

Husayn, Rabin, Clinton Hold News Conference

JN2607215194 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2015 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Joint news conference by U.S. President Bill Clinton, Jordan's King Husayn, and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin with foreign and domestic correspondents at the White House East Room in Washington, D.C.—live]

[Text] [Clinton] Good afternoon. I am happy to once again welcome King Husyan and Prime Minister Rabin. In the last two days, history has been made in Washington and a broader future has been built—a future that offers more peace and security, not only for the people of Israel and Jordan but also for the people of the United States.

With great courage and foresight, the king and the prime minister have united in the conviction that it is time to end more than four decades of bloodshed and loss. They've demonstrated that contact can overcome conflict, that direct talks can produce peace. They've declared an end to the state of war between their two countries and are determined to secure a lasting peace. They have personally committed to making sure that a treaty is concluded as rapidly as possible.

When we met yesterday, the king, the prime minister, and I agreed to designate representatives to ensure that the provisions of the Washington Declaration are implemented quickly.

In the week of an extraordinary set of events, this morning we witnessed another one, as the king and the prime minister appeared jointly before Congress. Their eloquent remarks articulated the common vision of cooperation that will yield specific and concrete benefits for all peoples on both sides of the Jordan River. The outpouring of support by members of Congress for these two heroes of peace, I belive, clearly reflect the feelings of all the American people. As I've made it clear since my first meetings with the king and the prime minister, America will stand by those who take risks for peace. We

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will support leaders whose boldness and wisdom are creating a new Middle East.

Today, I have reaffirmed to Prime Minister Rabin that as Israel moves forward in the peace process the constant responsibilty of the United States would be to help ensure its security. I have also reaffirmed to King Husayn my determination to assist Jordan in dealing with its burden of debt and its defense requirements. I am working with Congress to achieve rapid action on both these matters.

The United States is committed to a comprehensive peace in the Middle East and an end the hostility between Israel and all her Arab neighbors. I spoke yesterday with President al-Asad of Syria and reaffirmed my personal dedication to achieving a comprehensive peace. Secretary Christopher has devoted a great deal of time and effort to negotiations with Syria, and I have asked him to return to the region soon to continue that work.

In these two days we have taken great strides on the road to peace. But even as these two leaders have come together the enemies of peace have not been silent. In recent days, terrorists have struck in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and in London. We will not, we must not, allow them to disrupt this peace process. This week's events here in Washington and the bravery of King Husayn and Prime Minister Rabin prove that a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace in the Middle East is within reach. Inspired by the extraordinary events of the last two days, now we go forward, with a new sense of determination and a new sense of confidence to take the next steps in the days and weeks ahead.

As I turn over the microphone, if I might, to the king and the prime minister, let me say at the end of the statements we will take press questions in alternating order from the American, Jordanian, and the Israeli press. Your Majesty.

[Husayn] President Clinton, Prime Minister Rabin, ladies and gentlemen: These have been unique days in our lives, yesterday and today, that witnessed dreams, hopes and prayers, realized in terms of an end to the state of war between Jordan and Israel. More important, in terms of our determination to move ahead in executing our duties towards our people, towards our peoples, in the entire region in the present and in the future that they live secure, in peace, with the ability to come together with the opportunity to give their talents a chance, to make a difference, to create as the breaking dawn of peace in the region what is worthy of them.

I would like, Mr. President, to thank you very very much indeed, sir, for your personal support, continued interest. We are proud to have you as our partner. We are proud and happy that these meetings between myself and Prime Minister Rabin have taken place here in Washington. We are overwhelmed by all the warmth and support that we have seen during these last two days. We recall and appreciate the efforts of the secretary of state, the efforts of so many friends here that enabled us to get this far. I hope together to build from now on, and we will continue and we will succeed and give all our peoples the chance to live under conditions that have been denied us, certainly as far as I am concerned throughout my life. And, I am proud to say that the overwhelming majority of Jordanians rejoice with me as I am sure is the case in Israel and here in the United States. Thank you very very much.

[Rabin] Mr. President. Your Majesty King Husayn. Ladies and Gentlemen.

I believe that the last two days represent a landmark in the positive developments towards peace in the Middle East. I believe to understand the meaning of what has been done by Jordan and Israel with the assistance, support of the United States has to be looked at in proportion to what are the trends today in the Middle East.

We see two conflicting trends in the Middle East. One, the rise for extreme, radical, Islamic terrorist movements within the Palestinian side, within the Lebanese side, in other Arab countries derived from a certain source that its purpose is undermining any possibility to achieve peace. I believe that we see their fingers in the international terror acts that have taken place. Not so far ago in Thailand, in Buenos Aires, in London, in addition to what goes on from Lebanon and in the territories by the extreme, radical Islamic terrorist groups. It's an all-out war waged by these elements against the possibility of the solution of the Arab-Israeli conflict in all its parts.

I believe that they have got infrastructure of terror all over the world. We saw it lately in Argentina. I don't want to talk about what is going on here, in Europe, in the Far East, in addition to the Middle East. And therefore, what we have done in the last two days is a major step of brave people on both sides to come up and to say: We are making an important, important phase towards peace because the Washington Declaration is, first and foremost, end of state of belligerency or, as the king declared, end of state of war.

Believe me, today in the Middle East, to reach commitment by the countries of the region for non-belligerency, no violence, no terror, can be the greatest contribution to peace in the region and not only in the region.

Between Jordan and Israel, we have reached the end of the state of belligerency, but there is a need—beyond the end of war, threats of war, violence, and terror—to build the structure of peace, relations of peace. We laid the foundations to this work, to this phase. The test will be to what extent we will succeed to build the structure of peace to reach the kind of relations between Jordan and Israel that the man in the street in Amman and in Tel Aviv will call it a peace.

Therefore, hard work is before us. We are committed, I believe, on both sides to do what is needed—in addition

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to the elimination of war—to build the relations of peace. We need your assistance, Mr. President, in doing so. The first responsibility lies with the parties, with Jordan and Israel. But without proving that the United States, the leader of peace in the region—hopefully other countries, the European Union—assisting those who take risks, calculated risks for peace, we will not achieve it in the way and the pace which it is needed.

We open a new chapter. We created a new landmark, but the road is still hopefully not too long, but still a work has to be done. We will do it. We need participation of those who preach peace to translate their words to realities, to practical support of those who take the risk for peace. Thank you very much.

[Correspondent] I would like to direct my question to Prime Minister Rabin. Mr. Prime Minister, when do you expect to pull your occupation troops out of southern Lebanon?

[Rabin] As you know, there were three years of war in Lebanon, which the purpose then declared by the Government of Israel was to eliminate Lebanon as a basis for terrorism. In 1985, the government, and the prime minister was Shim'on Peres, and I was the minister of defense, it was a national unity government, we decided to pull out. But, in the absence of central government in Lebanon, in the absence of military and security forces that can take control of its sovereign soil, and with the continuation of at least Syrian division on the Lebanese soil, and from the area that the Syrian Army is deployed, Hizballah takes action against us, there are still members of the Revolutionary Guards of Iran there. We have made it clear—and I repeat it—in a context of a peace treaty with Lebanese Government that will be in full control of its own sovereign soil, Israel will agree to peace treaty. We don't seek one square inch of Lebanese territory. The border there is defined. There is an international border, and we will respect it. We are not seeking one cubic meter of their water. All that we want peace treaty and their capability to maintain control of their own land. I believe they are capable if somebody from the outside will not interfere, and will prevent it.

[Jordan TV correspondent Murad Hammad] Mr. Rabin, I would like to ask you a question. We've seen the historic handshake, and the Washington Declaration. But, there is a topic that was rarely discussed. And that is now that Israel is moving very quickly on the Palestinian and Jordanian front, and hopefully with the advent of peace in the Middle East with other Arab countries, what does Israel intend to do with its huge arsenal of nuclear weapons?

[Rabin] [Indistinct word]

[Hammad, repeating question] What does Israel intend to do with its arsenal of nuclear weapons?

[Rabin] Well, as you know, Israel is not a nuclear country in terms of weapon. And therefore, your question is not relevant. We are committed to the United States for many years not to be the first to introduce nuclear weapon or weapons in the context of the Arab-Israeli conflict. But, at the same time, we cannot be blind to efforts that are made in certain Muslim and Arab countries in this direction. Therefore, I can sum it up: We will keep our commitment not to be the first to introduce, but we still look ahead to the dangers that others will do it, and we have to be prepared for it.

[Correspondent] Mr. President: I would like to ask you when do you hope to see the president of Syria, President al-Asad, standing next to you like His Majesty King Husayn and Prime Minister Rabin of Israel, and what are prepared to do in order to achieve it?

[Clinton] Well, let me say, as you know, I have already met with President al-Asad once for an extended period of time in Geneva. We have talked many times on the phone. The secretary of state has been to Syria on several occasions, and we were working hard there. But in the end, the lesson of the successes which have been enjoyed over the past year is that the best thing the United States can do is to help to create the conditions within which the parties themselves feel secure in making peace.

This is an agreement made by Israel and Jordan. In September, we had an agreement freely made by Israel and the PLO. What remains is for sovereign states with great interests and long histories to reach an accord. My job will be to create the conditions insofar as I am humanly capable for such a peace to be made. But the decisions will have to be made by them, and the successes of the last year rest on that fundamental understanding.

[Correspondent] Mr. President: It is widely believed that Hizballah was responsible for some of the recent bombings in Buenos Aires, in Panama, if not also in London. Did you discuss that with President al-Asad? Do you believe that more pressure should be brought against Iran by Germany, France, others of our allies who have had very friendly relations with Iran? Do you believe that Hizballah could operate as it has in Damascus and southern Lebanon without the complicity of President al-Asad? I also would like, Your Majesty, if you could comment on that, and also the prime minister, on Hizballah's role?

[Clinton] Well, let me say first of all, I condemn, the United States condemns the terrorist attacks in Buenos Aires and in London. They are in all probability of too recent (?vintage) for any one to be absolutely certain what the source of them is what I think it is reasonable to assume that the terrorists who wished to be the enemies of peace are behind it. I did discuss the terrorism issue with President al-Asad in Geneva. I have continued to press with our friends and neighbors and our allies the importance of standing up against nations which support terrorism, trying to stem the expansion of terrorism is a major objective of the United States. And I think that there is a good chance that this agreement between

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Jordan and Israel juxtaposed against the horrible events in Buenos Aires and the attempt at a horrible result in London may stiffen the resolve of other countries around the world to help us to move against this. And I think we must all try to do more. I am committed to do more. I think every one in the United States would want us to do more against terrorism, and we are going to have some more help from our allies. We cannot allow the enemies of peace to prevail.

[Question indistinct]

[Husayn] I believe, Mr. President, that the enemies of peace is the right description, the enemies of life, the enemies of human relations between human beings, the enemies of hope, the enemies of security, the enemies of what should be normal between people.

We have always stood against terror and terrorism, and we have paid a heavy price. I condemn these recent acts, and in fact just a while ago we were discussing amongst ourselves, myself and some of my colleagues, the need for us to increase our vigil in the time ahead because more may come. However, I believe that this is a challenge we face, to speak for what we believe in, to speak for the overwhelming majority of people.

We are Muslims in Jordan, and Christians. We live as members of one family. Nothing irritates me more, or is more painful to me, than to witness and see acts and attitudes attributed to Islam that have nothing to do with Islam, my faith and my religion. But I believe this is extremism as we know it in our world. People with blinders, with no vision. I believe that what we have achieved here in Washington—and our commitment to make a difference to continue in dealing with every aspect of the building of the house of peace in our region in terms of negotiations to come, work to be done, and to have all this culminate in a peace treaty between us, hopefully in the context of a comprehensive peace—is our best answer to those who try to continuously destroy it everywhere in our region.

[Rabin] The Hizballah is very active daily, equipped with modern weapons, Russian-made, Soviet-made antitank missiles, the Sagger, mortars, antitank weapons, artillery. To the best of our knowledge, it comes from Iran via Syria, might be lately in reduced number. Their forces are deployed. One of the bases that we attacked was in area in the al-Biqa' in which the Syrian Army is deployed.

If you'll ask me: Who is the boss of Hizballah? I would say: Iran. If you'll ask me: Syria can put limitations on its activities, my answer will be: Yes. If you'll ask me for a proof for that, in July, in response to prolonged Katyusha rockets by Hizballah, we went and used firepower in southern Lebanon.

And we worked out certain understanding to the good offices of the United States in which the secretary of state was involved. The talks were, to the best of my knowledge, with the Syrians. If the Syrians could reach understanding, limit part of the activity of Hizballah, it means that they have got at least preventive capability vis-a-vis Hizballah. If you ask me: Do they want to use it? My answer: In a very limited way.

[Clinton] Yes. In the back there.

[Correspondent] Your Majesty. Do you believe that it is time to convene the Arab family of nations in order to support these agreements which were signed between Jordan and Israel and between the Palestinians and Israel, and make ways in order to clear the political environment which is very poisoned in the Arab world and prepare and begin for the reconciliation process between the family of the Arab world?

[Husayn] I believe this is inevitable and, at the same time, I know that you know that we have been trying to get there for a long period of time. It will happen, I hope, and before too long.

[Correspondent] Your Majesty. What does it take, or what what is still is needed to be done for your grandson and my son, who have met before, but abroad, to meet respectively in Amman and Tel Aviv? And also, since we are in a live broadcast to Israel, would you care to carry a message directly to the Israeli people?

[Husayn] I hope to share with the people of Israel the hopes that the people of Jordan share with me, that we are on the verge of the breaking of a new dawn for all our peoples, for a secure, safe future, for a future of peace, cooperation, for human relations to develop and grow between us. And I hope that the answer will come as a result of our joint efforts which I hope, following this meeting, we will be able to shepherd, both the prime minister and myself, in terms of the tasks ahead, of negotiating on all aspects of the problems that we still have to resolve. In other words, using his words, the building blocks of peace that will culminate in a peace treaty hopefully before long. I hope it won't be long before what we suggest will happen, Sir.

[Clinton] Let me say one other thing before we leave. I think that King Husayn and the prime minister have put peace in the air all over the world. A few hours ago, I received a message from President Yeltsin, saying, first of all, how pleased he was about what had happened here between Jordan and Israel and secondly, that he had reached agreement with President Meri of Estonia to withdraw Russian troops from Estonia by August the 31st.

As you know, this has been one of the principle objectives of American policy so that now, for the first time since the end of World War II, on the last day of August, there will be no more Russian troops in Germany or anywhere in Eastern Europe. And I think maybe the vibrations of peace that the king and the prime minister have sent out.... who knows what may be announced tomorrow? Thank you very much and good day. Thank you. [applause]

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Jordanian-Israeli Agreement Seen as 'No Surprise'

MM2607154094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 26 Jul 94 p9

[Article by 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Rashid: "The Jordanian Option"]

[Text] That quick agreement between Jordan and Israel came as no surprise. In fact, it was expected to occur immediately after the announcement of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement. Jordan was not previously opposed to negotiation but it knew that it would not be able to negotiate without Palestinian support. Jordanian issues are organically linked to Palestinian border, economic, and human issues, more so than is the case for any other Arab party.

With the exception of the Jerusalem problem which has arisen between the Palestinian and Jordanian sides, particulary over the question of who is entitled to be in charge of it, the Jordanian-Israeli agreement is expected to become the most quickly implemented agreement. Jordan had been more inclined than others to take the road of reconciliation, even more so than Egypt which opened the way in 1979. Despite its ostensible objection, Jordan realized that it needed reconciliation more than others, and indeed signs of its willingness appeared on more than one occasion since the June [1967] defeat by Israel in which it lost half of its territory and half of its people, and since the September [1970] bloody incidents with the Palestinian factions. Let us not forget also that Jordan's need for reconciliation stems from the weakness of its position. Of all the Arab fronts, the Jordanian front is the one most exposed to military involvement for it has the longest borders facing Israel and the largest number of Palestinian refugees.

The assassination of Anwar al-Sadat resulted in the postponement of the reconciliation plan, for that would have been a dangerous adventure. We recall the Jordanian crown prince's famous description of the assassination as being an act of suicide as well as murder.

The suspension of the Palestinian issue, when it just stood still, increased the Jordanians' suffering. They could not advance militarily and they dared not accept a peaceful political solution. In the final analysis, because of its military weakness and the seriousness of its internal situation, reconciliation was Jordan's only option.

That is why the anger that Jordan claimed to feel on realizing that it was among the last to hear about the secret negotiations its Palestinian allies were holding with the Israelis in Norway, was perhaps the anger of someone who wanted to participate. Today's results prove that Jordan is the second beneficiary. Jordan knows that it is sitting on a powder keg which could explode in any future crisis if frameworks for early solutions are not drawn up. We refer here to the large number of Palestinians living on Jordanian territory. Although, more than any other state, it has been able to absorb them into its population and to benefit from their intrinsic skills and capabilities, it did realize that this was a ticking clock, a reminder of the danger of explosion.

From that angle, the Palestinian-Israeli agreement was a salvation for the Jordanians. It gave them a chance to negotiate and reach agreement on ending the state of war. Opening the way for cooperation with the Palestinians inside [the occupied territories] will meet Jordanian economic needs. Jordan is the big port, the lung through which the West Bank breathes and the bridges through which it hopes to fulfill its dream of future economic recovery.

As far as Israel is concerned, despite its ability to drive home to the Jordanians the point of its ability to reach Amman any time it wished, it realized that military superiority never gave it security and that the time for reconciliation and for putting the Jordanian-Israeli option to the test was at hand.

Israel, Jordan Disagree on Timing of Free Trade Zone

TA2607121294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Text] Israel and Jordan disagree on how much time is needed to establish a joint free trade zone. Our economic correspondent Menahem Friedman reports that Jordan wants the zone to be established gradually in 15 years, while Israel wants to speed up the process. Dr. Ehud Kaufman, the Finance Ministry representative for the talks with the Jordanians, said that the Jordanians manufacture several products at excellent quality and low price and, if Israel buys them in Jordan instead of in Europe, its trade balance with the EU will improve.

Jordanian Delegate Denies Oslo Signing of Water Deal

JN2607173294 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Text] Dr. Mundhir Haddadin, head of the Jordanian delegation to the water working group in the multilateral Middle East peace talks and member of the Jordanian delegation to the bilateral negotiations, has denied reports carried by some media organizations that Jordanian, PLO, and Israeli negotiators are holding secret negotiations in Oslo to discuss water sharing within the context of peace agreements, and that an agreement will be signed in this regard this afternoon. He said that there is no secrecy in what is taking place. It was agreed during the multilateral peace talks the water working group held in Muscat to convene meetings in Oslo during intervals between rounds of talks to identify and describe the necessary consulting efforts required to examine the laws and regulations governing the development and use of water resources in the Middle East.

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Dr. Haddadin added that the talks currently under way in Oslo have nothing at all to do with water sharing. For this issue will be discussed in the bilateral Jordanian-Israeli talks. He noted that two members of the Jordanian delegation to the water working group are taking part in the Oslo multilateral meeting, and that they have contributed toward identifying and describing the required consulting efforts, he concluded.

Syria, Israel Holding 'Secret' Negotiations

TA2607132394 Jerusalem AL-MANAR in Arabic 25 Jul 94 pp 1, 15

[Excerpts] Diplomatic sources say that secret talks between Damascus and Tel Aviv are currently taking place in Nicosia and Madrid in a bid to reach a peace agreement between them. These sources add that the two sides are discussing the clauses of the agreement, which has actually been drafted. The discussion is focused on the number of the stages of withdrawal and the normalization arrangements. [passage omitted]

An Arab diplomatic source has said that Damascus is now negotiating with Washington over the size of economic aid, the cancellation of debts, and Syria's deletion from the list of states that support terrorism. Israel, however, says that Damascus must pass through the Israeli door if it wants any money.

Prospects for Syrian-Israeli Peace Accord Viewed

MM2707111594 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 27 Jul 94 p 15

[Article by Khayrallah Khayrallah: "When Syria?"]

[Text] We return to the main question these days: When will Syria embark on a crucial step toward peace? Will it be soon, namely after U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher returns to to the region early next month? Or does Damascus prefer to wait so that it will not appear as though it is moving in the shadow of what happened between Israel and the PLO and what is happening between Jordan and Israel?

The important thing is that there are indications which cannot be misinterpreted, among them that the Syrian leadership is getting the people used to the idea of peace with Israel. This is evidenced by Syrian television's transmission of the recent ceremony held in the White House Rose Garden during which a historic "handshake" took place between an Arab leader, namely King Husayn, and Yitzhaq Rabin. In fact Syrian television transmitted Rabin's speech....

The question is: So when? But the answer to this question must take account of the fact that Syria prefers to reach an agreement on the details of the details before a deal can be concluded with Israel. And once again, it must be reemphasized that the give-and-take process currently taking place between Syria and Israel via the U.S. brokers must take into consideration Syria's regional role.

Certainly it is not sufficient to transmit the Rose Garden ceremony to Syrian viewers in order for Syria to prove that it will be able to secure a regional role. There is a greater need than ever before to show that this role is inevitable through a kind of mutual recognition that Syria with its regional role is an element of stability in the region. And that can only mean one thing, namely that Syria should continue to play a constructive role at the Lebanese level through interaction with civilian political life in its small neighbor, instead of engaging in schemes of a different kind by encouraging certain power centers in the country—schemes that can only return political life in Lebanon to the past, instead of developing it.

Without doubt Damascus has a strong card consolidating its regional role. It lies in the prior Israeli acknowledgement that eventually there will be a need for it to sign an agreement to guarantee security in southern Lebanon. And the Israelis know full well that Syria's signature is the only effective one in this connection. They cite as an example the calm that has prevailed in the Golan since the disengagement agreement was signed between the two sides in 1974.

It is no coincidence that the statements issued recently by Damascus following the talks held between President Hafiz al-Asad and the U.S. secretary of state show that there is a clear link between the Golan and southern Lebanon. To the point that it has become clear that Damascus is the party negotiating in this connection, despite the difference between Resolution 242 concerning the Golan and Resolution 425 concerning southern Lebanon.

Step by step a solution is moving toward Syria or, rather, Syria is moving toward a solution. However, what cannot be denied is that Damascus wants different treatment at all levels. While the PLO could find only an Israeli gateway to enter the White House and ultimately obtain recognition, Jordan could do nothing except speed up its steps to defend its existence and role in the region. As for Syria, it appears that it will be able to get the different treatment, at least with regard to its role and influence in Lebanon in the post-peace stage. A lot in this connection will depend on a constructive Syrian role with regard to the civilized concept, namely on the idea saying that Lebanon's prosperity serves Syria's interests and not vice versa. What is certain is that this prosperity can only be achieved through a political-economic project for Lebanon—a project that advances sometimes and falters in other times, for reasons which ill-intentioned people say Syria has something to do with!

Draft on Early Empowerment of Health Sector Finalized

NC2707100794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0940 GMT 27 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 27 Jul (MENA)—Palestinian-Israeli negotiations on the early transfer of powers in the West Bank

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resumed this morning. The Palestinian side was chaired by Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation in the Palestinian National Authority [PNA], and the Israeli side by General Danny Rothschild, coordinator of government activities in the occupied territories.

The two sides continued their talks until late last night and focused on finalizing the early transfer of powers in the health and education sectors.

Palestinian sources said that some progress was made in the negotiations and a final draft on the transfer of health powers has been prepared.

The sources expressed hope that some positive results will be achieved today. The negotiations are expected to continue until tomorrow, Thursday.

Change of 'Israeli Line,' Not Mediator, Urged

MM2607114494 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 24 Jul 94 p9

[Article by Walid Abu-Murshid: "Change of Policy, Not a Change of Mediator"]

[Text] Christopher's failure to bridge the Syrian and Israeli views is not so much a Christopher failure as a failure of the Israeli negotiation line.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher returns to Washington silent, saying nothing, his lips sealed.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres just makes a brief statement to the effect that "there are no signs of progress in the negotiations with Syria."

Another American tour has been wasted and other future tours might go the same way if Israel continues to ignore the constant Arab principles for a Middle East settlement and continues to offer one partial solution after another. It continues to evade comprehensive peace in the region despite the admission by Israeli officials that peace in the Middle East would be incomplete without peace with Syria and Lebanon.

It is almost three years since the Middle East peace negotiations started in Madrid but Israeli officials are still looking for a way to start a peace dialogue with Syria despite Syria's open cards and despite the clear UN resolutions. The land-for-peace principle was and still is the basis for a settlement.

Then why this procrastination over a settlement which Israel knowns will not be complete without full withdrawal from the Golan and southern Lebanon?

Why claim that Christopher "failed" to break the Syrian-Israeli deadlock and even accuse him, as reported in the Israeli press yesterday, "of being unqualified for that mission from now on" when what has been required since the 1991 Madrid conference is a clear Israeli commitment to give back all the Golan to Syria and all the border strip to Lebanon?

Sometimes Israel offers a solution in installments, expressing willingness to give the Golan back in stages, making the degree of withdrawal from the Golan conditional on the degree of peace offered by Syria as if peace is supposed to be a reward for the aggressor not the aggressee. Other times it puts the cart before the horse and insists on prior normalization of relations with Damascus and Beirut as a condition for withdrawal as if the victim not the aggressor is supposed to demonstrate goodwill.

Other times it tries to present its recognition of Syrian sovereignty over the Syrian Golan territory as "a historic concession," although it knows that the Knesset decision annexing the Golan to Israel has not been recognized by a single state in the world.

If unable to resort to other tricks, the Israeli Government then returns to the pretext of being unable to face Israeli public opinion "without a clear commitment" from Syria, as Rabin told Christopher on his latest tour. There may be many pretexts but the fact remains that Israel's line of separate and divided peace has so far failed to achieve a comprehensive peace in the region. That means that what is required is a change of the Israeli line not a change of the U.S. mediator.

Inter-Arab Affairs

'Abd-al-Majid Welcomes Jordanian-Israeli Declaration

NC2607164294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1307 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Excerpt] Cairo, 26 Jul (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid today said that the signing by King Husayn of Jordan and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin of the joint declaration in Washington yesterday represents a remarkable development in the history of Arab-Israeli conflict.

The joint declaration, 'Abd-al-Majid said, is a step down the road to a just and comprehensive peace that is in accordance with UN Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, 425, and 252. The declaration is also in line with Arab League Resolution 5092, which welcomes the efforts to achieve a just and comprehensive settlement of the Arab Israeli conflict and the Palestine issue in accordance with the principles of international law and UN resolutions.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that the future should be one of peace and development, not conflict and discord. The Arab League, he added, supports any Arab country seeking to restore its legitimate rights in keeping with the resolutions of Arab and international resolutions. [passage omitted]

PLO's Qaddumi Confers With Arab League Chief

NC2607160294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1425 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 26 Jul (MENA)—Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Arab League secretary general, met here today

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with Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department. They discussed the latest developments in the Middle East peace process.

Qaddumi said after the meeting that his talks with Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid dealt with the return of refugees and with Jerusalem. Qaddumi said that there should be a united Arab stand on these Palestinian issues, noting that Israel is trying to drive a wedge among the Arabs. The Palestinian official said that Jerusalem is a Palestinian issue and an Arab-Palestinian responsibility.

Asked about reports that the PLO will be dissolved after the establishment of the Palestinian National Authority, Faruq Qaddumi answered that the PLO will remain and it will expand its activities. The PLO will cooperate with Palestinians inside the territories in order to support Palestinian issues, Qaddumi added. Qaddumi affirmed that the PLO will continue to preserve the identity of the Palestinian people.

Asked about the date of his return to Gaza and Jericho, Qaddumi said: I will refuse to receive an entry visa to Gaza from [Israeli Prime Minister] Rabin; I will obtain this visa from a Palestinian passport officer.

Qaddumi extended thanks to all countries that have helped the Palestinian National Authority, adding: We in the self-rule region are trying to rely on ourselves in building an economic foundation and infrastructure. However, we still need more aid from the donor countries.

Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 22 Jul

NC2707075594

[Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 22 July issue of the Arabic-language newspaper Cairo AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Writer Attributes July Revolution's Failure to Neglecting Islam
2. Writer Criticizes Education Minister's Decisions
3. Al-Azhar Ruling on Education Minister's Decision on Veil
4. Organization Demands Jail Opened to Visits

WRITER ATTRIBUTES JULY REVOLUTION'S FAILURE TO NEGLECTING ISLAM

In his 5,000-word article on page 5, 'Adil Husayn gives credit to the July 23d revolution for liberating the Arab will and building a strong state. However, he says that one of the revolution's gravest shortcomings was its failure to adopt Islam as the main term of reference. He notes in this context that "in the absence of Islam, the materialistic values of the Western civilization have prevailed, dealing with man as nothing but an animal whose major concern is to fill his belly."

He argues that Islam could have changed the objectives of development, work incentives, and the socioeconomic system. He states that it is not Islamic to turn the people into slaves for bureaucracy or to kill creativity. He explains that Islam requires the state to correct people's mistakes without stifling them or tying their hands. He adds that Islam could have given a different role to the shura by involving all in the decisionmaking process, instead of opening prisons and violating human rights.

"Don't you ever think that things got better with the appearance of opposition parties and newspapers. Major decisions are still being adopted without consulting institutions and, under the emergency laws, opposition members are constantly threatened with arrest and trial," Husayn says.

Describing the present situation, Husayn says: "The Arab weapons that achieved victory in the Ramadan war are now being withdrawn under our noses...so that the Israeli Army can have the upper hand. They destroyed Iraq's missiles and its stock of chemical weapons so that Israel alone can be in control of a nuclear arsenal with the necessary aircraft and missiles to use against the area from Morocco to Pakistan. They have occupied the Gulf once again and the Americans now have land and sea bases in our lands." He notes that Iraq is being subjected to a full, stifling economic embargo and that Iran, Libya, and Sudan are being subjected to a partial embargo.

He adds that Zionists sow sedition, penetrate Arab ranks, and seek to build greater Israel. He refers to the schemes to destroy Arab power, schemes that focus on Egypt through the pressures imposed by the IMF.

Stating that "our rulers have destroyed us," Husayn notes that the Egyptians, who defended Arab security in the past, allied with the Americans and Zionists to strike at Iraq and are cooperating with Israel, which occupies Jerusalem, while boycotting Iran and Sudan and allying against Yemen.

Referring to the Islamic revival all over the Arab and Muslim worlds, Husayn argues that the struggle for the coming renaissance will be achieved under the banner of Islam. "The current effort to gain independence is inseparable from efforts to restore Islamic rule," he says.

WRITER CRITICIZES EDUCATION MINISTER'S DECISIONS

In an 800-word article on page 6, Dr. 'Abdallah Hilal berates the minister of education, whom he mockingly calls "Baha'-al-Din Ataturk," for opposing the almighty's order to women to cover their heads and wear long dresses and for issuing other decisions "in an attempt to dry up the sources of the Islamic revival."

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Hilal refers to a complaint he received from the owner of a private school about the Education Ministry's orders to these schools to teach sciences in foreign languages instead of Arabic. He notes that this "represents a war against the Arabic language," and that it will help increase extremism when students fail to understand the language of their religion.

AL-AZHAR RULING ON EDUCATION MINISTER'S DECISION ON VEIL

An unattributed 200-word report on page 1 says that al-Azhar's Fatwa Committee last Tuesday [19 July] ruled that it is prohibited to order school girls to uncover their heads, stating that a girl should not obey a human being who asks her to disobey the creator.

ORGANIZATION DEMANDS JAIL OPENED TO VISITS

An unattributed 200-word report on page 1 says that the Egyptian Human Rights Organization has renewed its appeal to the security authorities to cancel the ban on visits to al-'Aqrab prison enforced seven months ago.

The organization expressed concern at the Interior Ministry's failure to comply with the many court rulings that rescinded the ban. A statement by the organization said the ban violates the Constitution and the rules governing the treatment of inmates and constitutes mass punishment.

The organization appealed to all Arab and international organizations concerned with human rights to put pressure on the Egyptian authorities to open the prison doors to visitors and allow its representatives to examine inmates' conditions.

Palestinian Affairs

Reaction to Rabin-Husayn Summit, Jerusalem Issue

Sha'th, Other Notables React

TA2607124794 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 26 Jul 94 p 3

[Report by Lamia Lahoud and news agencies]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Palestinian chief negotiator Nabil Sha'th, who holds the Palestinian planning portfolio, told THE JERUSALEM POST he hopes the Jordanian-Israeli negotiations will not have a negative effect on the Israeli-Palestinian talks, which are resuming today in Cairo.

Sha'th said he thinks the Israelis realize that the breakthrough with Jordan would not have been possible without the implementation of autonomy in Gaza and Jericho. He added he hopes that the progress with Jordan would put the Israeli public at ease, and encourage them to move ahead on the Palestinian track.

He described the PLO-Israel talks as "advancing very slowly," but said the slow pace could be the result of new people facing each other across on the negotiating table. He said he hoped that this week Israel and the Palestinians would agree on the transfer of control of education and health services.

Figures from all the Palestinian political factions have expressed concern that Israel and the international community will opt for a Jordanian-Israeli solution for the future of the administered territories and eastern Jerusalem.

Riyad al-Maliki, a spokesman for the rejectionist Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine said he believes the Jordanians decided to negotiate openly with the Israelis to divert attention from the Palestinian track.

He said this was the king's way of retaliating against the PLO for its signing the Declaration of Principles in September without consulting with him.

"Israel is more eager to reach an agreement with Jordan because the government does not face any opposition for peace with Jordan," he said, adding that Israel thinks the issue of Jerusalem can be resolved more easily with Husayn, since he only has religious, not political claims on Jerusalem.

Muhammad Jadallah, of the Democratic Front For the Liberation of Palestine, which also opposes the peace process, said he believes the Americans and Israel want to pressure 'Arafat into accepting a confederation of the territories with Jordan. It is for this reason the donor states are reluctant to pay the Palestinians the money they had promised, he said.

[A pool report on page 7 of Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew on 26 July adds: "Reacting to the Washington Declaration last night, 'Arafat's aide Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi said he was surprised by its wording with regard to the holy sites in Jerusalem. 'The problem is not just the holy sites. There is something beyond it here: the fact that Jordan is given priority in the discussions about the permanent solution—and this constitutes somewhat of a surprise.'

["According to Faysal al-Husayni, a confederation between Jordan and the PLO is a possible solution and the best suited to the problems of the region. 'Any other solution reached between Israel and Jordan and the Palestinians would be temporary,' he said. Referring to control over the holy sites in Jerusalem and the city's status, al-Husayni added that a dialogue is under way between the Palestinians and Israel on this issue.

["Abu-'Ala' [Ahmad Quray'] pointed out that there is no doubt that the Palestinian problem is the root of the Arab-Israeli conflict. The moment progress was made on the Israeli-Palestinian track the way opened to a solution between Israel and other Arabs, he said."]

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Al-Husayni, 'Ashrawi on Jerusalem

TA2607113894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1005 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Excerpts] Faysal al-Husayni says in his opinion a meeting between Yasir 'Arafat and King Husayn will be held in the near future in order to discuss the future of Jerusalem. Al-Husayni says he is not opposed to Jordan having a more prominent role than the Palestinians in Jerusalem, but only for the interim period, not during the permanent stage. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports from East Jerusalem's Orient House:

[Begin recording] [Amir] Faysal al-Husayni, who holds the Jerusalem portfolio in the Palestinian Authority, does not reject the Israeli-Jordanian agreement, which gives King Husayn priority over Jerusalem's holy sites. Al-Husayni emphasized, however, that during the negotiations over the permanent arrangement in Jerusalem Jordan will have to negotiate with the Palestinians, disregarding the agreements with Israel.

[Al-Husayni] Look, we have an agreement with the Israelis. As far as the interim period is concerned, it is okay with us that Jordan assume responsibility over the holy sites. Once we start the negotiations over the permanent solution, however, this is a Palestinian concern, and once it is a Palestinian concern, Jordan has to discuss this with us rather than with the Israelis.

[Amir] So you are not opposed to Husayn having responsibility for the holy sites during the interim period?

[Al-Husayni] Look, we do not want to introduce any changes during the interim period, not until we start the negotiations. The permanent solution is a Palestinian concern which should be solved between us and Jordan. It is none of Israel's concern.

[Amir] [passage omitted] This morning Umm-Jihad [Intisar al-Wazir], who holds the social welfare portfolio in the Palestinian Authority, was seen entering Orient House. Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi confirmed a few minutes ago that Umm-Jihad visited Orient House together with her.

['Ashrawi, in English] Umm-Jihad did come and visit the office of the commission, and we followed up on some cases. She also had several discussions with people, and she came also with me to the Orient House to see some of the work here, particularly issues dealing with social welfare.

[Amir, translates the above and continues] Dr. 'Ashrawi emphasized it is inconceivable that he who pays money to preserve the holy sites in Jerusalem become their owner, an obvious hint to King Husayn, who is financing the maintenance of the Islamic holy sites in East Jerusalem. [end recording]

Jerusalem Clause Angers PLO Circles

JN2607142694 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Report by Basim Abu-Sumayyah from Gaza]

[Text] The clause dealing with religious supervision over Jerusalem contained in the Washington Declaration yesterday raised angry reactions among PLO circles which considered the Israeli stand a clear violation of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement which stipulates that discussion of the final status of Jerusalem and its holy shrines will take place in the final stage of negotiations on the Palestinian-Israeli track.

According to a responsible Palestinian source in Gaza, Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has begun intensified contacts with Arab and Islamic parties and the nonaligned states to protest the Israeli stand on Jerusalem.

'Arafat yesterday chaired an emergency Palestinian National Authority [PNA] meeting, in the presence of a delegation from Jerusalem. Discussions during the meeting focused on the repercussions of the Jordanian-Israeli agreement.

For his part, Faysal al-Husayni, chairman of the Jerusalem Committee and member of the PNA, said that negotiations over Jerusalem are a Palestinian affair and that no non-Palestinian party can negotiate over it. He said: Ultimately, a solution on Jerusalem cannot be reached without the Palestinians.

Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, PNA secretary general and former Palestinian ambassador to Jordan, said that the Israeli Government has no right to give any party any role or make any promises regarding Jerusalem because it is an occupying country.

Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Shami, who is close to the Islamic Jihad Movement, described the clause dealing with the Jerusalem issue in the Washington Declaration as an Israeli game aimed to drive a wedge between the Palestinians and Jordanians. He called on Jordan to leave the door open for the Palestinians to exercise religious and political supervision over the holy city.

'Arafat Opposes Jerusalem Stance

NC2607151094 Paris AFP in English 1314 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Text] Gaza City, Gaza Strip, 26 Jul (AFP)—PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat contacted Arab leaders Tuesday [26 July] in a bid to rally support behind his objection to Israel's recognition of Jordanian rights over Moslem sites in Jerusalem.

'Arafat telephoned King Hassan of Morocco, Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, Saudi Arabia's defense minister, an official told AFP.

Nabil Abu-Rudayna, 'Arafat's press counsellor, also warned against attempts to break Arab ranks and to undermine Jordanian- Palestinian relations.

In the Washington declaration signed Monday by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and King Husayn, Israel

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agreed "to accord high priority to Jordan's historic role regarding these holy sites" in East Jerusalem.

'Arafat initially welcomed the Israeli-Jordanian declaration ending 46 years of war. But the Palestinian authority's news agency WAFA later put out a statement in Gaza denouncing the declaration on Jordanian rights in the holy city.

Palestinians want East Jerusalem as capital of their future state while Israel, which annexed the eastern sector after capturing from Jordanian control in 1967, has declared Jerusalem its undivided, eternal capital.

The Israelis are an "occupation power, which, in accordance with resolutions of international legitimacy and international law, is not entitled to act" in Jerusalem, WAFA said.

The declaration of principles signed by Israel and the PLO last September in Washington provides for discussions on Jerusalem starting not later than the third year of Palestinian autonomy in the West Bank and Gaza.

Morocco is head of the Al-Quds Committee, which is in charge of protecting the Moslem sites, and King Hassan is considered a descendant of the prophet Muhammad. As the center of Islamic history, Saudi Arabia is also responsible for Moslem holy sites and has periodically offered money to restore Jerusalem shrines.

Jordan, which recently renovated the mosque of the Dome of the Rock in the old city, finances and controls the Waqf, a religious body in East Jerusalem which manages Moslem property and shrines throughout the occupied West Bank.

'Arafat later met with Rabbi Moshe Hirsch, head of the anti- Zionist Neturei Karta Jewish group.

Hirsch said his talks with 'Arafat focused on the Moslem sites in Jerusalem. The rabbi, who has supported the PLO and 'Arafat, claims to have been appointed "minister" for Jewish religious affairs in the new Palestinian authority. PLO officials denied it.

PNC Official on Jerusalem Issue

NC2607145294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1345 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 26 Jul (MENA)—Muhammad Subayh, Palestine's permanent representative at the Arab League and secretary of the Palestine National Council [PNC], has stressed that the issue of Jerusalem is a permanent topic on the Arab League agenda, noting that Jerusalem is the concern of all the faithful.

In a statement today, Subayh said that Jerusalem is a holy capital and it must be the capital of all the Palestinians and Israelis. He affirmed that there is no dispute between Jordan and Palestine over any issue.

Subayh said: We are involved in an integrated peace process on all tracks, including the Syrian track. This has been affirmed by King Husayn of Jordan and Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat. This is an absolute commitment because peace can only be comprehensive if it is applied on all tracks, Subayh added.

Muhammad Subayh expressed the hope that King Husayn's step would convince the Israeli people and leadership that the Arabs are serious regarding the issue of peace. This step must be met with a serious attitude by the Israeli side. The Palestinian official said that this great step should convince every Israeli that the Arabs are serious. The Israelis must seize this unique opportunity to implement the just comprehensive peace, the land for peace principle, and UN Security Council Resolution 242 on all fronts, he concluded.

DFLP, Hamas Officials Criticize Pact

JN2607180894 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Text] The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] has described the agreement signed by King Husayn of Jordan and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin in Washington yesterday as another step in the direction of the Oslo and Cairo agreements signed by PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and Rabin.

In a statement issued today, the DFLP said that what happened in Washington conflicts with the resolutions of international legitimacy calling for an Israeli withdrawal from all the Arab territories, chief of which are Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. The DFLP added that the agreement also flagrantly conflicts with the principle of land for peace because Israel has not taken any step to withdraw from the pockets of occupied Jordanian territory, the Syrian Golan Heights, the occupied southern Lebanon, Jerusalem the West Bank, or Gaza Strip.

Muhammad Nazzal, Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] representative in Amman, has also described the signing of the Washington Declaration between King Husayn and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin as a big mistake because it took place outside Arab coordination. In a radio interview last night, Nazzal expressed his belief that the results of negotiations on the Jordanian-Israeli track are similar to those produced by negotiations on the Israeli-Palestinian track. These results, he added, will harm both the Arab cause and the Palestine question.

Fatah Central Committee Critical

JN2607183394 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Text] The Central Committee of the [dissident] Palestine National Liberation Movement, Fatah, has issued a political statement on the political developments in the Jordanian arena. The statement says that these steps—whether they are a declaration of principles, agreements, meetings, or the contents of the Washington Declaration on ending the state of war between Jordan and the

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Zionist entity, abolishing all economic boycotts, and opening the borders for tourists from both sides as a first step toward normalization—constitute another U.S.-Zionist penetration into our Arab nation's front.

The statement says that the weak excuses used to justify endorsement of enemy schemes have become exposed and unconvincing. From this premise, this step seriously undermines the Palestinian cause—our Arab nation's central cause—and the pan-Arab higher interests.

The statement adds: Declaring an end to the state of war between Jordan and the Zionist entity will not end the conflict with this enemy which usurped our homeland, Palestine. The conflict with it is over existence and not over borders or waters. It is a conflict that cannot be stopped or terminated by the agreements of humiliation and shame. The struggle of our nation and of its vibrant forces will continue against the invading enemies.

Fatah Figure Views Accord

NC2707104994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0930 GMT 27 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 27 Jul (MENA)—Zuhdi al-Qidrah, Palestine's ambassador and Fatah Movement representative in Cairo, has stated that the Jordanian-Israeli agreement is an important step toward peace. He expressed the hope that a similar step will be made on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks to reach a comprehensive and just peace in the region, achieving an Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories, and enabling the Palestinian people to exercise their legitimate national rights over their land.

In a statement to MENA, he noted that Jerusalem's religious issue cannot be separated from its other, political issues. He said the entire subject of Jerusalem is negotiable under the Israeli- Palestinian Agreement and that any different Israeli measure is regarded as a violation of this agreement and of international legitimacy resolutions.

He added that the Israeli-Palestinian Agreement stipulated that the final status of Jerusalem and its holy places would be discussed with the Palestinian side in the Palestinian-Israeli track's final phase. He noted that any prior determination of Jerusalem's fate and confining of the discussion to specific issues, such as the Islamic holy places, ignores the Jerusalem issue and its status in a comprehensive solution. He said Jerusalem will be considered an occupied land as are other West Bank areas. Al-Qidrah called on the Arab and Islamic countries and the international community, particularly fraternal Jordan, to be wary of the seriousness of the Jerusalem issue and not to accept the separation of issues concerning Jerusalem.

'Arafat: Only PLO Entitled To Address Jerusalem Issue

JN2707095294 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0630 GMT 27 Jul 94

[Text] President Yasir 'Arafat has stated that our right to Jerusalem is not embodied by raising a flag on the Dome of the Rock or the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. It is a sovereign right, a territorial issue, and a historical and legitimate right that cannot be given up.

Receiving a Palestinian Writers Union delegation in Gaza yesterday, Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] said that only the PLO can speak or negotiate on Jerusalem.

At his meeting with the Palestinian writers who came to congratulate him on his return, President 'Arafat discussed, in addition to the Jerusalem issue, the situation of detainees and the role the Palestinian cultural institutions should play in the stage of construction.

'Arafat on Securing Freedom of Worship in Jerusalem

JN2707100994 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0630 GMT 27 Jul 94

[Text] President Yasir 'Arafat received a delegation from the Natore Qarta Movement [pro-Palestinian Israeli religious group] in Gaza yesterday. President 'Arafat affirmed that the Palestinians are committed to securing freedom of worship for the sons of the three religions in the holy places, and that Jerusalem will be open to all and to all those who love peace.

Addressing the delegation which came to congratulate him on his return, 'Arafat said: With our joint efforts, we will witness the moment when the project of the establishment of the Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital will materialize.

The Natore Qarta delegation renewed the pledge to President 'Arafat to proceed together to attain peace in Palestine.

At the end of the meeting, the delegation presented President 'Arafat with token gifts.

On another note, President 'Arafat emphasized to popular delegations from Gaza camps and areas that he gives special attention to the repatriation of 900,000 Palestinians who were displaced in 1967. President 'Arafat added that the 1948 refugees issue will be discussed within the negotiations on the final stage.

PLO's Mahmud 'Abbas Views Negotiations

NC2607140394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1135 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Text] Tunis, 26 Jul (MENA)—PLO Executive Committee Member Mahmud 'Abbas (Abu-Mazin) has

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affirmed that he will soon enter Gaza and Jericho, but will not participate in the Palestinian National Authority.

In a statement to a MENA correspondent in Tunis, Abu-Mazin said he will carry out his political activity as a member of the PLO Executive Committee and Central Committee of the Fatah Movement. He affirmed that he will not form a party to oppose the Palestinian National Authority or to the Fatah Movement but will carry out his political activity within the PLO and the Fatah Movement. He noted that he might occasionally disagree with some of the views expressed inside the Executive Committee, Fatah, or even the Palestinian National Authority.

Abu-Mazin pointed out that he will not participate in the National Authority because the tasks distributed among its members are unsuitable for him, and that he will carry out his work through the PLO's Department of National and International Relations, which will remain in Tunis. He said he has no role in the current peace negotiations between Israel and the PLO following Hasan 'Asfur's assumption of the post of director of the Negotiations Department. He also does not exercise any role through the Liaison Committee, the Palestinian side of which he used to head when Shim'on Peres headed the Israeli side.

Abu-Mazin affirmed that the Palestinian-Israeli agreement will ultimately lead to the establishment of a Palestinian state. If the agreement between the Palestinian and Israeli sides is implemented in a positive and constructive spirit, this state could come into existence within two years.

Abu-Mazin, who signed the declaration of principles on behalf of the Palestinians in Washington last September, said that the negotiations regarding the final stage will begin no later than three years after the signing of the agreement. But according to the agreement, such negotiations can begin immediately if the two parties so desire.

Abu-Mazin expressed the view that Israel is ready to begin the negotiations on the final stage now. The Palestinian side could be ready to begin the negotiations immediately after it has reorganized its affairs.

Hamas Offers To Exchange Israeli's Body for Muslims

Issues Statement

NC2607161494 Paris AFP in English 1537 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Report by Sakher Abu Eloun]

[Text] Gaza City, Gaza Strip, 26 Jul (AFP)—The Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) offered Tuesday [26 July] to exchange the corpse of an Israeli soldier kidnapped in 1989 for three jailed Moslem fundamentalist leaders.

The fundamentalists issued a statement giving Israel until Friday evening to respond to the first such offer by Hamas. Soldier Ilan Sa'dun was abducted as he hitchhiked on May 3, 1989, murdered and his corpse buried somewhere on the Strip.

Hamas claimed responsibility but said those who knew where he was buried had gone into exile. "We declare our readiness to give back the body of Israeli soldier Ilan Sa'dun who was kidnapped and killed by one of our armed units in 1989 in return for the release of Hamas leaders, including Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd and Mustafa al-Dirani," the statement said.

It also called for the release of "some detainees from other Palestinian factions". Yasin, who founded Hamas in December 1987, was arrested in a major 1989 crackdown shortly after Sa'dun and another Israeli soldier were killed. He was jailed for life in October 1991 for murder.

Yasin is blind in the right eye, almost deaf, paralysed in both legs and reportedly in poor general health. Senior Shiite cleric 'Ubayd was seized from his south Lebanon home by Israeli commandos in July 1989.

Israel also kidnapped al-Dirani, a Lebanese fundamentalist chief, from his home in the al-Biqa' valley in May in a bid to gain information about a missing Israeli aviator. The Hamas statement said one of its "brave fighters," 'Abd-Rabbuh Abu-Khusa, had "succeeded in crossing the borders" into Gaza. He is believed to know where Sa'dun's body was buried.

"Therefore the 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam (military wing) has decided to counter Israeli terrorism with Hamas humanity." It said Israel had until seven p.m. Friday (1600 GMT) to reply. Neither the army nor the Palestinian authority gave any immediate reaction.

PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat, seeking broad Palestinian unity, has repeatedly asked for Yasin's release in a gesture to Hamas which opposes the autonomy agreement with Israel. Israel has this year offered to release Yasin if he renounces terrorism.

'Text' of Hamas Offer

NC2607170394 Paris AFP in English 1603 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Text] Gaza City, Gaza Strip, 26 Jul (AFP)—Here is the text of a statement sent to news agencies Tuesday [26 July] by the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas): It opens with a verse from the Koran about right being the strongest.

"Statement from the Martyr 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam units:

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"Thank God and praise be upon our prophet Muhammad. A few days ago, with the help of God, one of our bravest fighters and fugitives, brother 'Abd-Rabbuh Abu-Khusa managed to cross the borders and arrived at his trenches (apparently meaning a hideout) in the Gaza Strip.

"As a result, 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam units decided to face Israeli government terrorism with the humanity of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas.

"Therefore we declare our full readiness to give back the body of Israeli soldier Ilan Sa'dun who was kidnapped and killed by one of our armed cells in 1989, in return for the release of a number of detained fighters of 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam, with at their head Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd and brother Mustafa al- Dirani and some detainees from other Palestinian factions. We will give the Israeli government until after the seven o'clock Arabic news broadcast on Friday, 29 July 1994 to respond to this initiative."

Signed: "Martyr 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam Units, the military wing of the Islamic Resistance Movement-Hamas, Palestine. 26 July 1994."

U.S. 'Failure' at 'Comprehensive Peace' Noted

TA2607161494 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 24 Jul 94 p 13

[Editorial: "The U.S. Position and Comprehensive Peace"]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's tour of the region ended without progress on the Syrian-Israeli track and amid a U.S. disregard of the Lebanese-Israeli track. This was reflected by the fact that during his tour, the U.S. secretary neither visited Beirut nor addressed this track. Apart from previously agreed steps on the Jordanian-Israeli track and Christopher's promise to the Palestinian Authority that the United States will try to accelerate international aid, an assessment of this tour affirms that it did not achieve much in terms of promoting a comprehensive peace process.

Prior to Christopher's tour, the United States had declared that the basic aim of the tour was to activate the Syrian-Israeli track. At the beginning of his tour, Christopher himself went further than this when he stated that the key to advancing the peace process is in Damascus and that there are real chances and new hopes that should be exploited.

Statements by those accompanying the U.S. secretary of state, who left Damascus for the United States without making any statement, affirmed that one should not expect progress soon. This was a clear sign of the failure of the U.S. secretary's mission. Those officials, however, avoided any mention of the real reasons, of which everyone is aware, behind the lack of the required progress. Foremost of these are Israel's refusal to implement the resolutions of international legitimacy, to withdraw completely from the occupied Golan Heights, and to implement Security Council Resolution 425 that calls for unconditional withdrawal from south Lebanon.

This situation affirms that the United States is still searching for compromise formulas that are in harmony with the Israeli refusal and which avoid commitment to international legitimacy and its resolutions. Certainly, this is something that neither serves the peace process nor is compatible with the presumed role of the United States, the major sponsor of the peace process. The United States promised to play the role of honest and active broker to achieve the goals of the peace process, mainly a comprehensive peace.

The United States is aware that despite the absence of the required Arab coordination, the Arab parties are still committed to the goal of comprehensive peace and that any attempt to divert the peace process from achieving this goal will have an adverse effect on the various negotiating tracks.

In order to break the current deadlock, the United States is required to play the role of an honest broker committed to the resolutions of international legitimacy. It should remove the real obstacles still preventing the required progress on the various tracks, foremost of which is confronting the obstacle of Israeli refusal. Otherwise, the U.S. secretary of state's upcoming tour, announced two days ago, will have no better results than those of the previous tours.

PFLP Denies Habash Met With PLO's Qaddumi

MM2607154494 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 26 Jul 94 p 6

[Unattributed report: "Popular Front Denies Any Meeting Held Between Habash and Qaddumi"]

[Excerpt] Damascus, AL-HAYAH—Sources of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], which is led by George Habash, have denied that any meeting has been held with PLO Political Department Head Faruq Qaddumi, who is visiting Syria to hold talks with Syrian officials and the Palestinian leaders residing in the Syrian capital who are opposed to the self-rule agreement.

The sources pointed out to AL-HAYAH that Habash "absolutely refused to meet with Qaddumi, because he does not want to hold talks with those who support the agreement." The sources added that "every time Habash meets with Qaddumi, Abu-al-Lutf [Qaddumi] comes out and says something different from what was agreed at the meeting. Besides, he supports the agreement, while we are opposed to it."

Furthermore, the sources said that 20 Palestinians from among the PFLP cadres left Damascus the day before yesterday for Cairo, from where they will move to Gaza

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via the Rafah crossing point in the framework of a list approved by Israel. Four others will go to Jericho via King Husayn Bridge, increasing the number to 24. [passage omitted]

'Arafat Approves Gaza Council Under al-Shawwa

JN2607132694 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0630 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Text] President Yasir 'Arafat last night approved the formation of a provisional municipal council for Gaza city under 'Awni al-Shawwa after meeting with the members of the municipal council.

President 'Arafat announced his intentions to participate in the first council meeting, tomorrow, Wednesday at the Gaza municipality building. During this meeting, needs will be assessed and future plans will be drawn up, taking into consideration the general configuration of the city.

'Awni al-Shawwa said he has asked to the representatives of the factions which continue to have reservations about joining the council to participate by sending one member for each faction. Al-Shawwa added: This is an urgent matter. For this reason, we decided that the council will start to work while we continue to hold consultations with all the factions to have them join the council.

'Arafat Appoints New Mayor, Council in Gaza City

TA2607114194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Text] A new mayor has been appointed to Gaza. Yasir 'Arafat has appointed 'Awn al-Shawwa, a relative of the former mayor, as the new mayor of the city. All of the new council members are Fatah people, including the son of Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi. Al-Shawwa said he will continue to negotiate with Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the Islamic Jihad over their entrance to the city council. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the city council will hold its first session tomorrow with the Yasir 'Arafat's participation.

Palestinian Chief Justice Sworn-In

LD2607183594 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Text] Judge Qusay al-Abadlah, head of the Supreme Court and chief justice, was sworn in yesterday morning before President Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and president of the Palestinian National Authority, at the Presidency.

The swearing-in ceremony was attended by Mr. Furayh Abu-Middayn, the minister of justice [name and title as received].

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Algeria

Spokesman Welcomes News of Israel-Jordan Agreement

LD2607202594 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Statement issued by an official spokesman for the Foreign Ministry "following the Washington summit"]

[Text] Having received news of the agreement on the declaration of principles between the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and Israel, which was concluded after the summit held in Washington on Monday [25 July], Algeria regards it as an additional step on the road to a comprehensive and lasting settlement of the Middle East conflict.

Algeria hopes that this event will constitute a new stage toward a desired comprehensive settlement of all the questions at issue in the Middle East region, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of international legitimacy, especially those related to a complete Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories, and the entrenchment of the Palestinian people's rights to establish their independent state.

Algeria, while reiterating its solidarity with all its brothers and its support for the efforts they have made toward regaining their legitimate rights, affirms that there is a need for a Middle East settlement to be comprehensive, so that it is a true guarantee of stability and a just and lasting peace in this region of the world.

Regions Reject FIS Absorption Into AIG

MM2607142094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 25 Jul 94 pp1, 4

[Report by Qusayy Salih al-Darwish: "Eastern and Western Algeria Reject Split and Dissolution of Salvation Front"]

[Text] The Armed Islamic Group [AIG] has made the Algerian regime an offer expressing willingness to stop killing foreigners in return for the release of its imprisoned leader Abdelhak Layada, who had been sentenced to death. The Omani and Yemeni ambassadors conveyed that offer to the Algerian Foreign Ministry after their release, on behalf of Bouabdellah Ahmed, the amir [leader] of the group.

Meanwhile, representatives of the armed factions of the [Islamic] Salvation Front [FIS] have condemned the attempt to dissolve the front and absorb it into the AIG, made by some FIS leaders such as Abdelrazzak Rijam, Mohamed Saeed, and Saeed Makhloufi, later joined by Anwar Haddam. That came in a statement issued by representatives of Algerian eastern and western governorates after a joint meeting held in the east last week. The statement rejected the "unification" process with the AIG. It added that the claim that the FIS attended the "unification" meeting was untrue because the FIS comprises four groups, namely the detained cheiks [leaders], the released cheiks, the secret committee at home, and the Executive Committee abroad, and none of these four groups attended with the exception of two members of the secret leadership at home.

The statement pointed out that these two members had no right to dissolve the FIS, which represents the broad popular base and is linked to its imprisoned cheiks and parliamentary leaders, and that it is inconceivable that the branch would absorb the main body and that the FIS would come under the banner of another.

The statement added that the FIS' field military force was not consulted and was not represented at that meeting despite its field presence in the framework of the Islamic Salvation Army [ISA] or as independent squads. It also pointed out that the "Islamic State" Movement, which signed the "unification" statement, was represented by only one of its three leaders, namely Saeed Makhloufi, whereas Abdelkader Shayouti and Izziddine Ba'ah did not attend.

The statement announced the formation of a unified leadership for the eastern region and another leadership for the western region with the understanding that a specific national leadership would be formed when the picture in the central region, where the AIG has a field majority, becomes clearer.

So the ISA, which was proposed as an idea over a year ago, has for the first time taken a practical form and with its presence, the FIS now—officially and for the first time—has an armed military shield.

The statement disclosed the real names, not just the noms de guerre as was the custom, of the members of the eastern and western regional leaderships. Although it declared jihad as a means of establishing an Islamic state in Algeria, it left the door of political action open to the FIS leadership. It urged the mujahidin to listen, obey, heed advice, concentrate on field work, and leave the major issues to those to whom they belong, in other words the FIS leaders.

The statement noticeably used a moderate tone towards the AIG and avoided entering into a direct argument with it although it did criticize it for repudiating whoever disagreed with it and for considering itself the only framework for jihad in Algeria. It emphasized that no group anywhere any time has the right to claim to be a Muslim group entitled to repudiate anyone who leaves it and who fights [independently].

Egypt

Jerusalem Clause in Washington Declaration Viewed

NC2707075294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0608 GMT 27 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 27 Jul (MENA)—AL-AHRAM has said that the Washington summit between King Husayn of

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Jordan and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has reignited the issue of Jerusalem and placed it on the front burner, with U.S. President Bill Clinton announcing that the declaration issued after the summit guarantees Jordan's special status as custodian of the Islamic places in Jerusalem, including the al-Aqsa Mosque. The declaration affirmed Israel's pledge to respect the special role Jordan plays in the Islamic places in Jerusalem.

In its comment for today, the newspaper considers that what was stated regarding the status of Jerusalem in the Washington declaration came as a surprise. It noted in this regard Israel's prior approval that the issue of Jerusalem should be left for future discussions and negotiations that would particularly address the final status of the occupied territories.

The newspaper commented, saying: It is as if Israel wants to jump the gun and establish a new status quo that would cause more trouble than it would resolve disputes.

AL-AHRAM did not rule out the possibility that this move will create obsessions among the Palestinians and open the door to many interpretations by those who fish for trouble to place obstacles in the way of a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East. But the newspaper affirmed that the pledges of the various parties, in addition to the United States' desire to establish a comprehensive peace in the region, could constitute strong commitments that respond to any problem emerging from this issue.

The newspaper highlighted the need to discuss the Israeli intentions behind attempts to denude the Jerusalem issue of its political dimensions. It called for solidarity in the efforts by the Arab sides involved in the peace process to rectify issues away from delays and vituperation. The paper stressed that the logic of a just peace cannot be decided by a de facto situation, but through dialogue and constructive negotiations.

Qaddumi Departs After Talks With Mubarak, Musa

NC2707080694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0725 GMT 27 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 27 Jul (MENA)—Faruq Qaddumi, the official responsible for foreign affairs in the Palestinian National Authority, left Cairo this morning after a short visit to Egypt during which he was received by President Husni Mubarak.

Qaddumi held talks with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa on the situation in the occupied territories and the means of cooperation and coordination with Egypt.

Country To Supply Gaza-Jericho With Oil, Gas Products

NC2507182794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1805 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 25 Jul (MENA)—Oil Minister Hamdi al-Binbi has decided to start immediately to supply the Gaza Strip and Jericho with the petroleum products they need, estimated at 260,000 tons a year or an average of 30,000 tons a month, [figures as received]. The supplies include liquified natural gas, gasoline, kerosene, diesel oil, and fuel oil.

A team of experts from the Egyptian petroleum sector has visited the shipping and unloading sites and drawn up the necessary plans for quick implementation.

Al-Alfi, British Official Discuss Terrorism

NC2507154294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1333 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 25 Jul (MENA)—Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi today received Mark Lennox-Boyd, British undersecretary of state for foreign and commonwealth affairs, in charge of British expatriates, and his accompanying delegation.

The British official praised the Egyptian police and security authorities for their continuing successes in enhancing stability and security in the country.

The interior minister stressed the importance of international cooperation in combating world terrorism in general and the Interior Ministry's role in this regard. He also stressed police agencies' ability, after their development and modernization according to the latest advanced scientific techniques, to penetrate extremist groups, control their movement, and foil their plots within the framework of legitimacy and the rule of law.

He emphasized the need to confront their misleading intellectual and propaganda ideas and uncover their attempts to use the cloak of religion.

British Ambassador in Cairo Christopher Long attended the meeting.

Editorial Pities Plight of Iraqis, Scorns Saddam

NC2507184094 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 21 Jul 94 p 5

[Editorial: "An Unlucky People and a Manic Leader"]

[Text] All of Iraqi dictator Saddam Husayn's desperate attempts to convince the international community to lift the sanctions imposed by the Security Council on Iraq following the failed invasion of Kuwait have failed. The latest attempt failed when the Security Council refused to lift or reduce the international sanctions. This is further proof of the complete lack of trust in the Iraqi regime that still reigns in Baghdad despite the catastrophes it has caused to its homeland and people.

Egypt, which sympathizes with all its heart with the helpless Iraqi people, would have liked, had conditions permitted, to extend aid and help to alleviate their suffering, which continue despite the quick defeat of

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tyrant Saddam Husayn's forces in the January 1991 war, a defeat that was enough to topple the most corrupt regime anywhere.

Iraq' sole ruler is trying to solicit the world's pity for his people by issuing statements—God alone knows how true they are—from time to time about the latest numbers of children, old and sick people who are dying because of the continued economic sanctions on Iraq. But this ruler never once points to the fact that he himself and the gang that is still around him are the major, even the sole, cause of this situation. The members of this gang continue to tell him that he is capable of challenging the world and staying in power, but they are in fact just defending their lives and futures.

Saddam Husayn tries to show his ability to continue to challenge the Security Council and the entire international community. His sick imaginations make him believe himself to be more clever than everybody else and that he can still rebuild his military forces, which set a world record for capitulating in the "mother of battles," which he continues to regard as a glorious victory over the forces of the whole world.

The tragedy is that the Iraqi people are the only victims of this abnormal mentality and strange behavior.

Official on Cause for Halt in Hala'ib Negotiations

NC2607154694 Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic 25 Jul 94 p 9

[Report by Salah al-Jazuwi]

[Text] Dr. Mufid Shihab, member of the Egyptian-Sudanese Committee and the legal specialist on the Hala'ib problem, has stated that the committee's failure to meet was due to the mistreatment of the members of the Egyptian delegation during its first visit to Sudan to discuss the differences between the two countries.

Dr. Shihab said that Hala'ib is Egyptian from the legal point of view and this is indisputable. He said that the al-Turabi regime is using this problem to aggravate the relations between the two countries.

It should be recalled that the Hala'ib Committee was formed as a result of the Mubarak-al-Bashir meeting during the African summit conference in Cairo last year.

YSP Delegation Arrives in Cairo for Talks

NC2607160594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1516 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 26 Jul (MENA)—Former Yemeni Prime Minister Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas and former Foreign Minister 'Abdallah al-Asnaj arrived in Cairo today leading a delegation from the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] on a one-day visit to Egypt. The delegation members will hold talks with the Egyptian officials as part of the preparations for the proposed Geneva talks among the Yemeni parties to be held at the end of this week.

Pakistani Parliament Speaker Pays 5-Day Visit

NC2607171194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1556 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 26 Jul (MENA)—Pakistani Parliament Speaker Yussef Reza Jilan [name as transliterated] arrived in Cairo this evening on a five-day visit to Egypt at the invitation of People's Assembly Speaker Dr. Fathi Surur.

During the visit, the Pakistani official will discuss with Dr. Surur, Consultative Council Speaker Dr. Mustafa Kamal Hilmi, and a number of Egyptian senior officials issues of common interest and ways to bolster bilateral ties. Jilan belongs to the Pakistan People's Party, which is led by Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto. He was elected speaker in 1992.

Defense Minister Tantawi Leaves for Beijing

NC2607171394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1555 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 26 Jul (MENA)—Field Marshal Muhammad Husayn Tantawi, commander in chief of the Armed Forces and minister of defense and war production, left Cairo for Beijing at the head of a ranking military delegation for a visit of several days.

During the visit to China, Field Marshal Tantawi will hold talks with Chinese officials aimed at promoting military cooperation between the two countries.

Medicine To Be Sent to Rwanda, Aden, Guinea

NC2607173994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1430 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 26 Jul (MENA)—Health Minister 'Ali 'Abd-al-Fattah has stated that upon the instructions of President Husni Mubarak, a consignment of approximately 5 tons of medicine, including antibiotics, solutions, and medical necessities, is being readied for dispatch to Rwanda.

The health minister has also issued instructions to send approximately 5 tons of medicine and a large consignment of cholera vaccines to both Aden and Guinea.

Al-Badari Islamic Group Amir Shot Dead

NC2707083594 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 24 Jul 94 p 8

[Report by Hasan al-Shayib]

[Text] The dangerous terrorist Muhammad Muhammad Fayyad, the amir of what is called the Islamic Group [al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah] in Markaz al-Badari and Sahil

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Salim, was shot dead during a shoot-out with the police at noon yesterday. Another terrorist was also shot dead during the incident.

The Security Department had received information confirming that the amir of the group was hiding inside a park called Kardus in al-Badari. A tight security plan was made to arrest him, and the Asyut security, central security, public security, and state security forces all participated in the plan. As soon as the forces surrounded the park, they were surprised by a hail of bullets fired by the terrorist in their direction. They exchanged fire with him until the shoot-out ended with the security forces finding the terrorist dead, his automatic weapon next to him, with another terrorist lying dead next to him.

A security source has confirmed that the dead amir of the group is one of the most dangerous terrorist leaders in Asyut and that he had been involved in over 20 police and officers' assassination cases. He is considered one of the leading symbols of terrorism in Asyut. This new security operation is part of the continuing campaign to track down and eliminate fugitive terrorists.

Population Official, Coptic Pope Discuss ICPD

NC2607172594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1330 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 26 Jul (MENA)—Pope Shanudah, pope of Alexandria and patriarch of the Missionary Province of St. Mark, today received Dr. Mahir Mahran, minister of state for population and family affairs. During the meeting, the two discussed preparations for the International Conference on Population and Development [ICPD] to be held in Cairo from 5 to 13 September.

Dr. Mahran stressed that not a single recommendation by the conference is in conflict with the heavenly religions or public ethics. He noted that Egypt's policy is one of adherence to religions and preservation of customs and traditions. He pointed out that states are not bound to sign any agreement against their will, adding that the conference's list of recommendations is free of anything that goes against ethics or traditions. He noted that 90 percent of the document is agreed upon by all parties. It includes measures to improve health conditions, raise educational standards, and protect human rights, he added. The conference is a good chance for everyone to discuss human and economic development, he concluded.

Dissent, Financial Impropriety in Coptic Church Cited

NC2707073994

[Editorial Report] Dissent within the Egyptian Coptic Church is the subject of a 2,200-word report by Usamah Salamah appearing on pages 5-7 of the 25 July issue of Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic.

Salamah begins his report by naming various groups opposed to Pope Shanudah within the Coptic community. He says:

"Last week, a new committee joined the ranks of opposition to Pope Shanudah. Other dissident groups include the Coptic Reform Front, the Popular Front for Purging the Orthodox Church, the Youth Committee for Clerical Reform, and the Sons of Saint Athnasius. Several dissidents are also active within the ranks of the expatriates.

"The new committee was formed by a number of lawyers following the Abu-Sayfin Church episode [in which the pope fired a popular church priest, Monk Agathun]. Its aim is to defend priests and clergymen referred unjustly for ecclesiastic trials."

The writer then names several clergymen who left the church because of differences with Pope Shanudah.

One is Dr. Amir Lutfi Basili, a lab specialist who was ordained eight years ago. A polyglot, Basili was sent by the pope to Coptic communities abroad to explore the grievances of the dissidents. He returned with "loads of opposition leaflets, voice recordings, and books. Basili tried to persuade the pope of the seriousness of the issues at hand and the need to discuss them and defuse tensions." The pope refused and a disappointed Basili left the order.

Another priest, an engineer by profession identified as 'Izzat, broke with the church when refused leave to see his sick wife.

The writer relates how eminent scholars and clergymen were persecuted or alienated by the pope's reluctance to tolerate dissent:

Academician George Habib Bibawi was a professor at the Clerical School. He was "fired by the pope, harassed, and finally left the country."

Bishop Gregorius was in charge of scientific research within the church. The pope "accused him of unorthodox thinking and banned his writings."

Abbot Matta was accused by the pope of "heresy." The pope "banned his books, collected them, and burned them at a gathering in the patriarchate's courtyard."

Dr. Sulayman Nasim wrote an article in a Sunday School magazine calling for church reform. The pope accused him of "treason."

Dr. Emile Mahir, a Coptic linguist, came under "pope-inspired" criticism for using a language "different from the one commonly used in churches."

Professor Iris Habib called for patriarchs to be selected from clergymen not belonging to the monastic order. The pope was not amused. He "fired her from the Coptic Studies Institute."

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The next charge aimed at Pope Shanudah in Salamah's article is that of condoning financial irregularity by relatives that he put in office.

The pope appointed his nephew, 'Adil Rufa'il Jayyid, as director of the Cathedral. Salamah cites leaflets issued by church dissidents accusing Jayyid of misappropriating church land worth 4 million pounds, or $1.3 million. The pope insisted on keeping Jayyid in his post despite church opposition. Jayyid is also accused of selling land allocated by the Cairo Governorate to the church for use as a Coptic cemetery. Jayyid is said to have diverted church restoration contracts to a company that he owns in partnership with two of his brothers.

The pope has not only refused to investigate the accusations, he actually admonished the accusers.

Salamah writes: "All these rumors and questions concerning the Pope's nephews prompted the Popular Front for Purging the Orthodox Church to issue a written plea to the pope, asking him to form a clerical judiciary committee to investigate the financial situation of Jayyid and his brothers from 1972 to 1994. The front said that the request was not aimed at defaming the men but at clearing their reputation in front of the church congregation.

"According to the front, when this question was raised during one of the meetings with the pope, the latter answered: Anyone who suspects these people suspects me personally. These allegations reflect nothing but jealousy of their success."

Television To Broadcast 24 Hours Per Day

NC2607114394 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 22 Jul 94 p 1

[Text] Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif has announced that television transmission will be extended to 24 hours a day so that Egypt's image does not disappear from Arab and international space channels. He added in his interview with the program Good Morning Egypt, which was broadcast yesterday on the occasion of the revolution anniversary, that the program is itself an introduction to the extended 24-hour transmission and gives a picture of what the television will be like. The minister pointed out that television transmission on all the channels combined has reached 110 hours a day. It ranged between 10 and 12 hours in 1980.

Libya

Jordanian-Israeli Agreement Termed 'Surrender'

LD2607145594 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Statement issued by a "source" at the Secretariat of the General People's Committee for Unity; date not given] [Text] The signing of the agreement between the king of Jordan and the Israelis constitutes another chapter in the chapters of solutions [as heard] that aim at liquidating the Palestinian cause and depriving the Palestinian Arab people of their legitimate rights to recover their homeland. These solutions are also aimed at accepting the Israeli occupation of Arab terrorities and imposing surrender on the Arab nation.

Such solutions also disregard the UN resolutions and violate its charter which does not allow land to be occupied by force and kept so that the rightful owners of that land are forced into giving it up under the slogan land for peace. This runs counter to all the international charters and agreements.

Jordan's agreement with the Israelis comes at a time the Zionist aggression is continuing against the Arab nation, particularly in Palestine and Lebanon. With this agreement, which coincides with the 25th raid this year on the Arab people of Lebanon, the Zionist entity proves the surrender of the Arabs to its military might, ranging from the atomic and chemical weapons of mass destruction to the long-range missiles which it receives from its western and American allies and with which it threatens the Arab homeland from the [Atlantic] Ocean to the Gulf.

The Arab nation is aware of the dimensions of the conspiracy which is aimed at forcing it to surrender and at destroying its existence and subjecting it to an economic, political, and military dependency on the Zionist enemy. The Arab masses believe in a just, lasting and comprehensive peace which will enable them to recover their legitimate rights in Palestine and the occupied Arab territories but they refuse to surrender and give up their rights.

Yugoslav President, Delegation Pay Official Visit

Al-Qadhdhafi-Lilic Talks Reported

LD2607135094 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1130 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Excerpts] Last night the brother leader of the revolution [Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi] received Zoran Lilic, president of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia [FRY]. A meeting was later held between the brother leader of the revolution and President Zoran Lilic. [passage omitted]

During the meeting, the two sides discussed bilateral cooperation and ways to bolster and reinforce it in all fields, in the interest of the two friendly peoples. The discussions also covered several other international issues of mutual interest and the situation in the region formerly known as Yugoslavia.

President Zoran Lilic and the delegation accompanying him this morning visited the house of the brother leader of the revolution which was destroyed in the failed barbaric U.S.-NATO aggression against the Great Jamahiriyah. The Yugoslav president wrote a few words in the

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visitors' book and condemned that aggression on the Great Jamahiriyah saying that it would remain as a disgrace for those who want to see the law of force prevail in the world instead of the force of the law [as heard]. [passage omitted]

In a statement to JANA, President Zoran Lilic said that he was happy to visit the Great Jamahiriyah, adding: Our journey was very long as a result of the measures imposed on our two countries, the Great Jamahiriyah and Yugoslavia. Therefore we were forced to travel a long way but we are confident that the talks we will have with the brother colonel, Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, and the cordial welcome you accorded us will confirm the saying: there are no borders between friends. President Zoran Lilic further said: I firmly believe that we will manage to stand fast. He also saluted the entire Libyan Arab people. [passage omitted]

GPC Secretary Talks with FRY's Sainovic

LD2607165694 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Excerpt] The brother secretary of the General People's Committee today met Nikola Sainovic, deputy prime minister of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia [FRY]. During the meeting they discussed bilateral cooperation and means of bolstering and strengthening it so as to serve the common interest of the two friendly peoples.

During the meeting they also discussed a number of international issues of joint interest.

The meeting was attended by the secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation and by Vladislav Jovanovic, foreign minister of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

Bosnian Foreign Minister Irfan Ljubljankic left Tripoli this afternoon after a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah. [passage omitted]

Al-Qadhdhafi, Lilic Hold Second Meeting

LD2607195594 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1938 GMT 26 Jul 94

["Pool" item]

[Text] Tripoli, July 26 (TANJUG)—Libyan Leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and Yugoslav President Zoran Lilic agreed here Tuesday [26 July] that the two countries should cooperate despite sanctions being enforced against them.

Meeting for the second time since Lilic's arrival in Tripoli late Monday, the two statesmen discussed the current international situation, bilateral relations and the crisis in former Yugoslavia, with a special emphasis on the Bosnian conflict. Lilic is heading a Yugoslav delegation on a two-day official and friendly visit to Libya.

Lilic said that Yugoslavia wanted peace and good relations with the neighbours, and was therefore willing to support any agreement acceptable to the Bosnian warring sides.

However, the plan devised by a big power 'Contact Group' for Bosnia was inadequate, failing as it does to regulate the status of Bosnian Serbs and their right to self-determination, Lilic explained.

Al-Qadhdhafi, who shared these views, deplored the victory of separatists in former Yugoslavia and hoped the nations of former Yugoslavia would regain their close cooperation and peace.

The world is witnessing a tendency on the part of the big nations to force their will on the small, especially the fiercely independent small nations, al-Qadhdhafi and Lilic agreed.

They said that there was manipulation also in the United Nations and the Security Council, and that the law of force was often substituted for the force of the law.

They voiced special concern about the situation in the Mediterranean, intensified inter-ethnic conflicts, religious intolerance and a strengthening of the Islamic fundamentalism.

They described bilateral political relations as good, whereas in the economic field efforts should be made already at this time to increase the presence of Yugoslav companies on the Libyan market once conditions have been created for this.

Parallel with the top-level dialogue, talks were held here Tuesday at ministerial level to discuss ways and means of enhancing Yugoslav-Libyan economic cooperation.

The next round of talks is scheduled for Wednesday.

The Yugoslav delegation, which includes also Deputy Prime Minister Nikola Sainovic, Foreign Minister Vladislav Jovanovic and Ambassador to Libya Dusan Simeonovic, is scheduled to leave Libya Wednesday.

Al-Qadhdhafi on 'Plot' Against Yugoslavia

LD2707105894 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0815 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Excerpts] Tripoli, 27 Jul (JANA)—The brother leader of the revolution [Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi] hosted a dinner banquet last night in honor of Yugoslav President Zoran Lilic, and the delegation accompanying him, currently on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah. [passage omitted]

During this banquet held last night in honor of the Yugoslav President Zoran Lilic, the brother leader of the revolution made the following speech:

It gives us great pleasure this evening to welcome our dear brother President Lilic of Yugoslavia. We thank him for paying this visit. It is known that both Libya and

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Yugoslavia are bound together by ties of historic friendship, a friendship that also links Yugoslavia to the Arab nation. [passage omitted].

The western states have imposed an embargo on Yugoslavia as they did on Libya. Nevertheless, despite this embargo we meet today on Libyan soil to prove that our resolve is stronger that the determination of the enemies, and to prove that peoples cannot be placed under siege. Satan will eventually commit suicide no matter how hard he tries to control evil and use it according to his whims. The policy of putting peoples under siege and turning the world into prisons, using the pretext of the so called new world order, will be rejected by these peoples. What benefit is there for these people to support this new order as long as this new world order is based on placing peoples under siege, dealing in injustice, turning the world into mass detention camps, threatening peoples with interference in their internal affairs, exporting wars, and setting up slaughter houses?

What encouragement can these peoples get from this new world order if the beginning of this order is like this? Will the Libyan people support the new world order? Will the peoples in Yugoslavia back the new world order? Will the peoples of Haiti, or Iraq, or Somalia, or Yemen, or Rwanda, or Cambodia, or Korea, or Cuba, or Panama, or Grenada support the new world order? Surely, they will reject it totally. Will this order be accepted by the Lebanese, or Palestinian, or Syrian, or Egyptian, or Algerian, or Sudanese peoples? All these peoples are currently being torn apart and tortured and put under siege because of this new world order.

We do not believe that what is happening in Yugoslavia is a civil war among the Yugoslav peoples. First of all, the inhabitants of Serbia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and the rest of the Yugoslav republics are all southern forefathers. What is more, the Orthodox [Christian] doctrine and Islam have more in common compared to other religions. There has never been any animosity between the Orthodox doctrine and Islam. On the contrary, it is the other Christian doctrines that harbored ill feelings toward Islam and the Orthodox doctrine.

Therefore, we are witnessing an external plot that is being hatched against Yugoslavia, and against its Muslims and Orthodox. This is a political rather than religious scheme. However, we have to admit to the abominable situation that has been and still is being experienced by Yugoslavia. We cannot deny that there were massacres that have targeted Muslims.

Libya bore witness to this when it welcomed 1,000 Bosnian Muslim orphans who lost their parents and became homeless. We cannot deny that some places of worship were attacked and destroyed. However, who is responsible for this? [passage omitted]

Hence, this is an external plot. What actually saddens us is that there are some elements who are willing to execute this plot. Obviously, there are some agents who have executed this plot. What is more serious is that the whole of Yugoslavia—Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia, and Serbia—is the target of a serious international plot. There exist imperialist ambitions, and there is a plan to settle accounts with Yugoslavia.

Europe wants to sacrifice Yugoslavia. Europe agreed to the annihilation of Muslims, and this can only be done through the destruction of Yugoslavia. There is a plot against Muslims in Europe; to carry out this plot the Europeans decided to sacrifice the whole of Yugoslavia. We all know that Muslims in Yugoslavia could enjoy a better life if they lived within a united Yugoslavia. [passage omitted]

If the policy of religious cleansing continues, this means that the whole of Yugoslavia will be destroyed, this is the plot which we refer to. We cannot see any future for these factions other than within a united Yugoslavia. If the West wants to get closer to Russia so as to be able to pounce on it one of these days, the West will undoubtedly keep on pursuing the policy of removing Yugoslavia out of the way. This is because Yugoslavia did in fact represent a hurdle in front of the advance of the Third Reich toward Moscow. [as received]

Faced with this fact, we find ourselves standing as one in the same trench against this new world order, Libyans or Yugoslavs, whether Muslims or non-Muslims. This is our cause which is being targeted by a plot. This plot is seeking some agents that we must isolate.

We do not believe that the United States protects Islam in Europe. If there is such a thing as an Islam which is under U.S. protection, we would like to say that we have nothing to do with it. We are certain that the United States is a sworn enemy of Islam. Consequently it cannot be a friend of Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Likewise, the western states are enemies of the Orthodox people in Yugoslavia. They therefore cannot be their friends. This fact prompts peoples into thinking about protecting their future. We are forced to think about finding a way to defend ourselves on this earth. This is a decision that nobody can deny us. [passage omitted]

They should realize that they do not own this earth. We have a place in it that should be respected. We should solve our internal problems as this constitutes a significant part regarding our overall action. We were very pleased to hear the view of President Lilic on the Yugoslav domestic problem. [passage omitted]

It gives us pride to be part of the battle. These meetings are extremely necessary to coordinate the struggle against the common enemy. Consequently, we thank our friend the Yugoslav president for this visit. We welcome you among your friends. May our struggle continue.

Bosnia's Ljubijankic Requests Aid for Sandzak Muslims

AU2607201994 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1700 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Text] Bosnia-Herzegovina Foreign Minister Ifran Ljubijankic and Bosnia-Herzegovina Ambassador to Libya

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Muhamed Kupusovic visited Libyan President Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi in Tripoli today. They discussed protection of our country's economic interests in Libya, the realization of the remaining part of a $50 million credit that Libya had granted to Bosnia-Herzegovina (?prior) to the aggressor against our country, and the construction of [words indistinct] Rijeka, which is worth $120 million.

Minister Ljubijankic [words indistinct] of Bosnia-Herzegovina in the negotiating process. Qadhdhafi was asked to intercede with the authorities of the so-called Yugoslavia to ease off the intolerable position of the Bosniaks in Sandzak.

Information Secretary on Lockerbie, Israel

NC2307173194 Cairo AL-'ARABI in Arabic 18 Jul 94 pp 1, 6

[Report by Nur-al-Huda Zaki]

[Text] In exclusive remarks to AL-'ARABI, Muhammad Ahmad Ibrahim, secretary of the Libyan General People's Committee for Information, Culture, and Mass Mobilization, has stated that Libya has entrusted Egypt with the Lockerbie issue and that Egypt knows the limits permitted by Libyan law in this regard.

Asked about the reaction to Libya's latest proposal on the trial of the two Libyan suspects, he said he is not aware of any such reaction.

He added that the current Arab situation allows no room for new developments regarding Libya's dispute with the West and declared: "Libya has done everything possible to show its willingness to cooperate to find a legally and politically appropriate solution to this issue that would preserve Libya's independence and free will."

Asked about the prospects of having the two Libyans tried by Scottish judges, Ibrahim replied: "I know nothing about the Scottish judges affair. The Arab League proposed putting them on trial at the International Court of Justice in The Hague. This proposal is still on; the Arab League has not withdrawn it. We also agree to let them be tried in Egypt. Egypt is the same as Libya to us. Furthermore, we suggested from the beginning the possibility of the two suspects traveling anywhere in the world of their own free will. Libyan law, however, does not permit extraditing them to any other country."

Concerning Israel's invitation to Libya to recognize the Jewish state and back the peace agreements because this is the way that leads to a solution, the Libyan official declared: "What they call peace with Israel is nothing but humiliation, subjugation, and insult. We cannot recognize it even if the whole world does so. We will not recognize—not after a million years—the racist, Zionist, illegally established entity. As for those who wish to make agreements with it and offer concessions, let them do so. We are not planning to sign or make concessions. We are not Palestine's neighbors and we never fought there, so why should we make concessions, sign, and visit Israel? Is it to take our share of the shame? Our share will catch up with us, like all the Arabs."

Commenting on Libya's views on future relations with the Palestinian National Authority in Gaza and Jericho, he said: "Libya has recognized a state called Palestine led by President Yasir 'Arafat. It has allowed it to open an embassy in Tripoli. Libya did not recognize or establish a relationship with a tribal chieftain or a small locality's mukhtar. Libya is not concerned with Palestinian behavior. We shall cooperate with the Palestinians until our mutual enemy is destroyed."

I asked him about the prospects for Libyan aid to the newborn Palestinian media apparatus in Gaza and Jericho, an issue that was on the agenda at the Arab information ministers' conference. He said: "The Palestinian media apparatus is good; it is stronger than Libya's. It needs no assistance from the Arab League or Libya because it is backed by major powers like the United States and Israel."

Regarding the Arab information ministers' discussion of a joint Arab media strategy to confront extremism, the Libyan official said: "We are not concerned with confronting extremism in the Arab region. This is not an issue that we are handling. Our media confront international imperialism, Zionism, poverty, and backwardness. This issue of extremism does not concern us. Libya urged the other Arabs to give some serious thought to formulating a media strategy to confront the next century's requirements and to free the Arab media from Western hegemony and incursions."

Finally, commenting on Libya's contributions to Arab satellite communications programs, he said that Libya was among the earliest participants in the Arab satellite communications program and the Arab Satellite Communications Organization and has had a space channel for the past four years. He added: "Libya is looking forward to cooperation with other Arab, particularly Egyptian, media. Libya will also soon join the European satellite system."

Egyptian Mediation Highlighted

MM1907133994 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 18 Jul 94 p4

[Report on interview with Information Secretary Ahmad Ibrahim by Sawsan Abu-Husayn in Cairo; date not given]

[Text] Libyan Information Secretary Ahmad Ibrahim has confirmed his country's willingness to hand over the two Lockerbie incident suspects for trial in Cairo if the other parties concerned accept that. In an exclusive interview with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, the secretary called for an Arab summit conference before the end of this current year to discuss Arab concerns.

On the proposal calling for the trial of the suspects in Cairo, the Libyan secretary said: "We are content with

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what (Egyptian) President (Husni) Mubarak said, that this Egyptian-Libyan proposal was an attempt to close the Lockerbie file. We proposed numerous initiatives. What is important is that the Western parties accept them. Libya is willing to respond fully in the context of the Arab League resolutions and the efforts of the Egyptian leadership." In his view, Libya is not responsible for the deadlocked crisis. According to him, that deadlock is a result of the refusal of others to reach understanding through dialogue.

The secretary does not accept that the reason there is no solution to the Libyan-Western crisis is the lack of confidence in Tripoli's policy. He said: "On the contrary, Libya's policy is consistent and it seeks nothing more than protection of its national independence, territorial sovereignty, and national rights. In our foreign policy we apply the principle of open dialogue and respect for world peace. Despite the state's small size, we are the state which has made the biggest contribution to the development of Africa, Asia, and Latin America."

On Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's statements attacking the West and describing it as barbaric, having previously called for dialogue and cooperation, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT asked if the West would see in that some contradiction that would prevent it from cooperating with Tripoli. The secretary replied: "Let me explain these positions. When we accept cooperation the West rejects it. That is why the brother leader said they were barbarians. Still, we have no objection to dealing with them and we ask nothing more than mutual respect without undermining our sovereignty, territory, and independence. However, the midnight killing of children, women, and elderly people in Tripoli and Benghazi was not for Lockerbie. That problem did not exist at the time." The Libyan secretary wondered: "The United States severed its relations with us in 1979, 1980, and 1981 and imposed an economic blockade. We are trying to remember what crimes Libya committed at the time."

Secretary Ahmad Ibrahim described the Lockerbie crisis as a legal matter and added: "Let the evidence and the proof be presented and the suspects stand trial and end this crisis. A defendant is innocent until proven guilty. The solution currently proposed by the West is that Libya should lose its independence first, and that is something we will never accept."

On the Libyan people's suffering in this connection, he said: "We have submitted numerous reports to the United Nations on the losses resulting from the blockade and the Libyan people's suffering, but it seems that nobody reads these reports. The United Nations and the West do not care about the harm done to the people. As small nations we try to focus on development and on serving our own objectives. We have no armies capable of defeating or fighting the United States. All there is to it is that we want to be free." Asked if Libya had presented all the evidence in its possession to the United Nations to acquit itself, he replied: "We have presented much. Some elements in the case are of extreme importance. The reports of the German attorney general and his justice department completely deny that the bomb was planted in Germany and, therefore the German judiciary believe that there was no charge to be made against the two Libyan suspects. Then there are the confessions of the company specialized in manufacturing the devices parts of which (the essence of the crime) they claim to have found. The company said that it had sold such devices to several parties and that Libya was not involved in the Lockerbie bombing. And there are numerous other pieces of evidence and developments, but who cares about the legal aspect of this case? Furthermore, the judiciary in the West is not independent, otherwise it would not have condoned the politicization of the case and the fact that it has been taken out of its legal context. We and the Arab brothers have made great efforts in search of a solution, and the Nonaligned Movement, the African summit, and the Arab League have issued resolutions, and most UN members including India and China, who together constitute half the world's population, have expressed solidarity with Libya, but in vain."

Opposition: Al-Kikhya Abducted From Envoy's House

MM2607144094 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 26 Jul 94 p 4

[Unattributed report: "Libyan Coordination Committee: Al-Kikhya Was Abducted From al-Bishari's House"]

[Excerpt] London, AL-HAYAH—'Izz-al-Din al-Ghadamsi, official spokesman for the opposition "Coordination Committee of the Libyan Democratic National Forces" headed by Major 'Abd-al-Mun'im al-Huni, has announced that former Libyan Foreign Minister Mansur al-Kikhya's abduction in Cairo last December "took place in the house of Ibrahim al-Bishari," Libya's representative to the Arab League.

A statement issued by the committee said that "Yusuf Najm lured al-Kikhya into the house of al-Bishari, member of the revolutionary committee and the Jamahiriyah's security service, on the pretext of the presence of a senior Libyan official who wanted to complete the dialogue they had started in Paris earlier. Awaiting Mansur were al-Bishari and Colonel Ahmad Salim Na'amah, member of the Jamahiriyah's security service. He was anesthetized and put in a Libyan official car, accompanied by Col. Na'amah, and moved to Tubruq camp, where he was moved by helicopter to the Bab al-'Aziziyah camp in Tripoli."

The statement revealed that "the plan to abduct al-Kikhya was prepared by 'Abdallah al-Sanusi, Muhammad al-Misrati, Sulayman al-Shuhumi, and Muhammad Hijazi, who are senior officials in the security service and the committees. They were in Cairo around the end of November 1993 with three Libyan official Mercedes cars." The statement pointed out that Najm "left Cairo immediately after Mansur arrived in

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al-Bishari's house, then returned over a month later. He was arrested by the authorities and held for four days...."

Concluding, the statement said that Maj. al-Huni "has received several threats from the regime's envoys to the effect that "al-Kikhya is in Libya, and you are at our disposal, so if you do not keep silent, you will suffer the same fate." [passage omitted]

Sudan

Hundreds Reportedly Surrender Following Cease-Fire

EA2607164994 Khartoum SUNA in English 0920 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Text] Khartoum, 26 Jul (SUNA)—Hu. reds of the outlaws surrendered to the authorities in each of Dilling and Kaduqli towns in Southern Kordofan State, while hundreds of those who voluntarily returned arrived to their homelands following the declaration of cease-fire by the government.

Wali [governor] of Southern Kordofan State Habib Makhtum confirmed the readiness of his state for settlement of the returnees in their original homelands, explaining that the stock from durra [sorghum] and other supply material is sufficient. He also announced that the refugees explaining that life is now back to normal in the area. [sentence as received]

Opposition Group Welcomes Accord With Garang

MM2207142394 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 19 Jul 94 p 4

[Unattributed report: "Sudanese Opposition Grouping Supports al-Mirghani-Garang Movement Agreement"]

[Excerpts] London, Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—The Higher Coordination Committee of the Sudanese opposition's Democratic National Grouping [DNG] has expressed support for the agreement signed by the Democratic Unionist Party [DUP] and Garang's movement [the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement] as being an agreement confirming Sudanese unity and reserving the right of self-determination for the South as a last option.

However, the Coordination Committee's statement, issued after a meeting held the day before yesterday, clearly separates the religion from the politics—something not clearly stated in last week's agreement between the DUP and the Garang movement.

The Coordination Committee's statement said that the Cairo Declaration issued by the DUP and the Garang movement "crowned the efforts made continuously by all the DNG members in pursuit of a formula that would confirm and safeguard Sudan's unity in the context of a pluralistic democracy based on citizenship and equal rights, separation of religion from politics, and full respect for human rights charters." [passage omitted]

In its statement the Coordination Committee said that, while it was adopting the joint declaration (the Cairo Declaration) as a whole, it wished in particular to reaffirm its main points, namely:

1. The aim of making the unity of the homeland and the people Sudan's sole option on the basis of full equality in accordance with the Nairobi Declaration and fair distribution of power and wealth, giving priority to development in the areas that have suffered most and are most backward.

2. Guaranteeing the rights of the parties to self-determination in the event of violation of the above-mentioned principles, with everyone's commitment to the outcome.

3. Mobilization of all efforts and resources to bring down and root out the regime of the [National] Islamic Front [NIF], punishment of the officials responsible for the planning and execution of the 30 June 1989 coup and everyone who cooperated with them in setting up that regime, and rejection of any inclination toward reconciliation or negotiation with them.

4. Development of the DNG's activity at home and abroad, consolidation of its unity, and provision of the necessary aid to enhance its capabilities, particularly those of its combat groups, to enable it to topple the NIF regime and restore democracy and peace in Sudan.

5. Convocation of a DNG conference to make a commitment to enter these principles in the main body of the country's political, constitutional, legal, economic, and social structure, with a provision for an international and regional presence to ensure that they are implemented and not abandoned. [passage omitted]

'Controversial' Issues Opened in Nairobi Peace Talks

EA2407133094 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 23 Jul 94

[Text] The peace talks being held in Nairobi continued today between the government's delegation and the delegations of the two factions of the rebel movement, in the presence of the ministerial mediation committee of the Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development [IGADD] states.

The participants have begun discussing controversial issues included in the draft declaration of principles submitted by the IGADD. It became clear during the discussions that the draft declaration of principles was deemed to be an agenda and not a declaration of principles. The secretariat of the IGADD states tried, in the draft, to obtain and bring together all the opinions mentioned in the papers submitted by the three sides.

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The government's delegation, at the meeting, asked that controversial issues such as the relationship between religion and the state, secularism and the issue of secession and self-determination, be discussed separately since they were not regarded as part of the principles.

Government Paper Accepted

EA2207224094 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 22 Jul 94

[Excerpt] The meeting of the Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development [IGADD] ministerial committee with the government delegation has agreed to accept the government delegation's paper in the current peace negotiations in Nairobi. The government delegation's paper includes amendments to the paper of the draft declaration of principles which was presented by the IGADD. This acceptance has coincided with what was declared in Khartoum, namely a ceasefire. The news was received with considerable gratification by the Kenyan Government and the other negotiating sides. The different sides are scheduled to hold an official meeting tomorrow morning with the government's delegation and the delegation of the two rebel factions in the presence of the IGADD ministerial committee. They are to continue talking about the points of disagreement aroused by the papers of the different sides in an attempt to narrow the disagreement gap. [passage omitted].

Parties Continue To Review Disputes

EA2607163494 Khartoum SUNA in English 0925 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Text] Nairobi, 26 Jul (SUNA)—The peace talks under the auspices of IGADD [Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development] mediation committee between the government delegation and the outlaws' movement two factions continued sessions Monday [25 July] here, reviewing all dispute issues.

Government delegation reviewed government's stance, which rejects anything affects Sudan's unity, SUNA's correspondent stated. The delegation affirmed that the talks should be continued from where it had stopped in the recent rounds, the correspondent noted.

Minister Urges Dialogue To Solve Hala'ib Dispute

EA2607163994 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Husayn Sulayman Abu-Salih announced that Sudan has sent a memorandum to the UN Security Council, the OAU, and the Arab League that explains the nature of the dispute between Sudan and Egypt regarding the Hala'ib triangle.

Speaking at the ministry's forum today, Dr. Abu-Salih pointed out that Sudan took these steps out of respect for international conventions and relations with other states. He said that Sudan regards its relations with Egypt with interest and considers them strategically distinctive. He expressed hope that both sides will correct the course of their relations and thrash out their disagreements through dialogue. [passage omitted]

On the signing of the Washington declaration, which ended the state of war between Jordan and Israel, the foreign minister said the Middle East has now entered a new stage. He added that Sudan respects the wishes of Jordan.

Al-Bashir Briefed on Security Conditions in South

EA2307193094 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 23 Jul 94

[Excerpt] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, president of the Republic, has familiarized himself with the security conditions and the program of peace from within in the state of West Equatoria, during his meeting today with Brigadier (Isaiah Bol), the governor of West Equatoria, at the Republican Palace.

In a statement following the meeting, his excellency the governor explained that he briefed Lt. Gen. al-Bashir on the plans and programs of peace and general mobilization to complete building up the political system. He pointed out that a high-level delegation will visit the southern states in the coming days to explain the program of peace from within to the citizens. He said Lt. Gen. al-Bashir emphasized the redivision of provinces in the state by adding to the existing two provinces, Tumbura and Mundri provinces, to make up four provinces there, and to set up a mobile radio in that state. [passage omitted]

Death of Former Ambassador Announced

EA2607102394 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1600 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Text] Khartoum, 24 Jul (SUNA)—The Foreign Ministry has announced the death of Ambassador Fakhr al-Din Muhammad who passed away in London on the afternoon of 23 July. The deceased was one of the pioneers who laid the foundation of Sudan's diplomacy after independence. He served as ambassador to Pakistan, China, Ethiopia, and the former Soviet Union. He also served as Sudan's permanent envoy to the United Nations, as minister of state for foreign affairs, and as undersecretary in the Foreign Ministry and as [word indistinct] of the United Nations.

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Kuwait

Islamic Group Protests Refusal To Amend Constitution

MM2607143694 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 26 Jul 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by Hamad al-Jasir: "Islamic Movement in Kuwait: Refusal To Amend Constitution Regarding Application of Shari'ah Is Violation of Shura Principles"]

[Excerpts] Kuwait—The Islamic Constitutional Movement in Kuwait has described the Council of Ministers' rejection of the demand for amending Article II of the Kuwaiti Constitution regarding the application of the Islamic Shari'ah as "a violation of the shura and democratic principles, which are opposed to the minority's monopolization of decisionmaking."

The movement, which is one of the most distinguished unofficial political groups in Kuwait, said in a statement issued yesterday that the rejection of the proposal submitted by a majority in the National Assembly (parliament) as regards amending Article II "reflects signs of weak communication with the Kuwaiti people's aspirations and orientations." [passage omitted]

The movement said in its statement that its call for amending the Constitution for the sake of applying the Shari'ah "will never stop. It is a legitimate matter, not a political option." It also stressed that the endeavors to achieve aim will continue, "whatever the challenges and no matter how loud the cries of threats and distortion are. Our only means to achieve that is good preaching, challenging an argument with an argument, and adopting legitimate and legal means and the rules of constitutional parliamentary practice." [passage omitted]

Meetings of Syrian-Kuwaiti Joint Committee Open

LD2607131194 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1000 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Text] Meetings of the second session of the Syrian-Kuwaiti Joint Ministerial Committee opened this morning at the building of the Ministry of Finance.

The Kuwaiti side was chaired by the second deputy prime minister and minister of finance, Nasir 'Abdallah al-Rawdan. The Syrian delegation was chaired by the deputy prime minister for economic affairs, Dr Salim Yasin.

Al-Rawdan made an address at the opening meeting in which he stressed the strength of the deep-rooted historic and brotherly relations linking the State of Kuwait with Syria. He also praised the honorable stances taken by the people and government of sisterly Syria under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad during the outrageous Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, its active contribution to drive that aggression away and its support for all UN resolutions in connection with ending the Kuwait liberation war.

The deputy prime minister and minister of finance dwelt on the arrangements taken to promote and strengthen ties of brotherhood and cooperation between the two countries during the last three years. He went on to say: A tangible progress has been achieved in this regard.

Nasir al-Rawdan said that the meetings of the Kuwaiti-Syrian Ministerial Joint Committee came after the meetings in Kuwait in early July of the foreign ministers of states signatory to the Damascus Declaration. He said that the declaration was a crowning of the distinguished strategic relations between Syria and Arab Gulf states.

The head of the Syrian ministerial delegation made a statement in which he praised the brotherly strong and special relations between the State of Kuwait and Syria at all levels. He said: The two countries have made a significant stride in this direction and are making quick efforts to find further forms of bilateral cooperation.

Dr Salim Yasin stressed that what Syria had done, during and in the aftermath of Kuwait's invasion, was only an embodiment of a Pan-Arab duty Syria was fulfilling towards Kuwait.

The Kuwaiti-Syrian Ministerial Joint Committee is due to conclude its meetings tomorrow, Wednesday.

Qatar

Amir Receives Yemeni President's Envoy, Message

JN2607111994 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0925 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Text] Doha, 26 Jul (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani, amir of Qatar, has received an oral message from Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih.

The message was delivered by 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, member of the Presidential Council, who arrived in Doha ealier today.

The Qatari News Agency said the message deals with developments in Yemen and efforts under way to achieve security and stability in Yemen, as well as bilateral ties.

Saudi Arabia

Involvement in Plan for Jerusalem Holy Sites Denied

LD2707081094 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2220 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Text] Jeddah, 26 Jul (SPA)—A responsible source in a statement to SPA today denied a report published by Israel's MA'ARIV newspaper on 23 July which stated that Saudi Arabia has perused details of a proposed plan

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to hand over Islamic and Christian sites in the city of Jerusalem to an international administration consisting of representatives from several countries, including Saudi Arabia.

The source said that report was untrue. The source said that within the same context, THE WASHINGTON POST's 26 July report that two Arab leaders—one of them the custodian of the two holy mosques—had been notified of matters related to the holy sites in Jerusalem, was also untrue.

Yemen

Syria Says No to YSP Request To Meet in Damascus

JN2607142994 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Text] 'Abdallah Anas al-Iryani, Yemeni charge d'affaires to Syria, has said that Syrian officials did not approve a request by the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] to hold its meetings in Damascus.

Curfew in Sanaa, Other Cities Reportedly Lifted

JN2607195794 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1900 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Text] Sanaa, 26 Jul (INA) - -The Yemeni Interior Ministry today decided to lift the curfew on and return normal freedom of movement and public activity to the capital, Sanaa, and other Yemeni cities and governorates.

In a statement issued today, the Ministry said the curfew had been lifted after the situation returned to normal. It is to be recalled that on 5 May the Yemeni Presidential Council declared a state of emergency in Yemen for one month, which was twice extended.

In another development, the official Aden-based newspaper 14 OCTOBER resumed publication today after a gap of over two weeks due to the secessionist rebellion in southern Yemen.

Leadership Ready for 'Comprehensive Reconciliation'

JN2607175894 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1250 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Text] Sanaa, 26 Jul (INA)—Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, Yemeni planning and development minister, has said that the Yemeni leadership is ready for a comprehensive reconciliation with all secessionists and misled people as part of the amnesty declared by Yemeni President Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih on 23 May.

In statements published by the Yemeni newspaper AL-MITHAQ today, Dr. al-Iryani added that any future dialogue initiated by the Yemeni leadership should stem from the acknowledgement by the elements wishing for this dialogue that the secession is null and void. He emphasized that reconciliation should be based on compliance with both the constitutional legitimacy and political pluralism, which were the basis of the unified state.

Al-Iryani did not rule out holding a reconciliatory dialogue with the 16 elements who led the secession and who were not included in the amnesty decree, provided that they condemn the secession which was declared in Aden on 21 May.

Gulf States Reportedly Assisting Southern Rebels

NC2607125094 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 22 Jul 94 p 1

[Report by Mahmud Bakri]

[Text] Diplomatic sources have told AL-SHA'B that two Gulf states have decided to provide financial support, over $200 million, to the Yemeni rebels who took refuge in Saudi Arabia. The two states have also decided to provide the rebels with various types of weapons to face the legitimate government in Yemen.

According to the sources, contacts have been made in Muscat, where 'Ali Salim al-Bid is staying, between the ambassadors of the two states. The ambassadors conveyed messages from their countries affirming their consent to assist rebel leaders abroad, to try to unite the political vision of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] inside and outside the country, and to set up military groups loyal to the leaders of the rebels abroad from the YSP loyalists in Aden and other southern towns.

According to information, other contacts are being held for that purpose with tribal chiefs in the south. A meeting including nine of the YSP leaders was held in Saudi Arabia last Wednesday to consider future moves to rejuvenate the forces of the southern rebels.

AL-SHA'B has learned that the Yemeni Government has warned Kuwait about this matter.

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PKK Reportedly Flees Zhalah Camp

NC2507194894 Istanbul TERCUMAN in Turkish 19 Jul 94 p 7

[Report by Ali Oncu]

[Text] The bloody PKK [Kurdish Workers Party] terror organization, fearing Turkish bombers, has evacuated the Zhalah camp. Intelligence units report that, following [PKK leader] Abdullah Ocalan's evacuation order, the number of militants in the camp dropped from 2,000 to 10. Aided by the peshmergas of northern Iraqi leader [Jalal] Talabani, the militants then separated into four groups and took positions in the northern Iraqi mountains close to the Turkish border. The militants, who are estimated to number around 800, set up camp and took up arms in the Haftanin, Karkuk, Siva, and Sherenin regions.

Intelligence units have informed the General Staff of the situation. The Turkish Armed Forces are considering an operation into northern Iraq.

The intelligence units have also ascertained that the PKK militants are obtaining ammunition from Talabani and that they are preparing to infiltrate the border and commit massacres. It has been further determined that a group of PKK militants has crossed into Iran.

Northern Iraq Smells Treachery

The bloody PKK terror organization, which has been hard hit by the Turkish Armed Forces, is gripped with fear of its own disintegration. The terror organization, which abducts 12- and 13-year olds at gunpoint and after three to five days of training throws them before the Turkish Armed Forces as sacrificial lambs, is suffering a shortage of militants.

The Zhalah camp, which used to recruit most of the organization's militants, was suddenly evacuated at Ocalan's orders because of the fear of bombardment. According to intelligence units, the evacuation of the camp is a major blow to the PKK. The Zhalah camp, which used to meet most of the PKK's quota of militants, is of vital importance to the organization. Zhalah camp, with mountainous terrain very suitable for training militants, is also located at a site that enables the militants to securely cross into Turkey. This secure passage into Turkey is being provided by Talabani's peshmergas.

According to available intelligence, the northern Iraqi leader Talabani and his peshmergas are very sympathetic to Ocalan's PKK, which plans to establish a socialist regime.

PKK Groups and Leaders

According to information gathered by Turkish intelligence units, the following are the PKK group commanders and the strength of the groups deployed in Iraqi regions close to the Turkish border:

Shiva region: According to intelligence units, the number of PKK militants deployed in this very mountainous region is around 180, 30 of them women. The commander of the camp is "a Syrian known as Muhammad".

Haftanin region: Nearly 200 PKK militants have been detected in this mountainous region. It is believed that these militants-in-training are preparing to infiltrate the Semdinli district. Some 50 of them are women. Their commander is another Syrian known as Hasan.

Butalama region: There are some 1,700 PKK militants in the region. The camp commander's name is not known.

Intelligence units indicated that following disagreements with his brother Abdullah Ocalan, the commander of the PKK's camp in northern Iraq Osman Ocalan has been replaced with a militant known as "Mahir".

Kurdish Feuding Said To Kill 20 in Past Week

NC2507164094 Paris AFP in English 1335 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Text] Irbil, Iraq, 25 Jul (AFP)—Twenty people were killed over the past week in clashes between the two main Kurdish groups controlling northern Iraq, Kurdish official Yunis Roshbeanyi said Monday [25 July].

Sixteen were killed last Tuesday [19 July] when the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) clashed in (Beharka) village, near Irbil, according to Roshbeanyi, the region's "interior minister."

Four other were killed in Irbil as a dispute over water turned violent, he added. There were also an unspecified number of wounded in the clashes.

Sporadic fighting was also reported in Qal'at Dizah, a village near the Iranian border, but neither side claimed any casualties.

The PUK and DPK blamed each other for the fighting.

Among those injured was the leader of the KDP group in the Kurdish parliament, Franzo Hariri, who was shot Tuesday at a PUK checkpoint on the road from Irbil to Salah al-Din, 30 kilometers (18 miles) to the north, KDP politburo member Fadil Mutni said.

PUK leader Jalal Talabani told the Kurdish newspaper KURDISTANI on Saturday [23 July] he will expel from his group those who found responsible for the attack.

The KDP and the PUK on Saturday announced in Paris that they reached an agreement to end the feuding, with new elections to be held in May 1995 and the reorganisation of the Kurdish army.

The KDP and the PUK seized control of northern Iraq in 1991, in an uprising launched against Iraqi President Saddam Husayn after his defeat in the Gulf war.

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SAIRI Suspects Death of Kho'i's Son Planned

NC2607153394 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Text] The Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI] has affirmed that Saddam Husayn's dictatorial regime is involved in the planned incident in which Muhammad Taqiy Kho'i was killed last week. In a statement it issued yesterday, the Assembly says that the statement made by the governor of al-Najaf about the incident is considered an admission by the Baghdad regime that it killed him, because the statement did not provide an explanation of the incident apart from blaming the car's driver, who was also killed in the incident. The SAIRI notes in its statement that the governor of al-Najaf did not mention the other military car coming in the opposite direction. He also did not mention the reasons which prompted the Saddam regime authorities to prevent the holding of funeral and burial ceremonies—something which confirms the regime's involvement in the crime.

The authorities of the ruling regime in al-Najaf refused to hand over the body of Muhammad Taqiy Kho'i, son of Imam Kho'i, and the body of Muhammad Amin al-Khalkhali [words indistinct] and his seven-year old son to be buried after having planned their assassination on the road between Karbala' and al-Najaf last Friday. Reports from Baghdad said that the regime's authorities buried the victims secretly [words indistinct] said in the British capital that Muhammad Taqiy Kho'i had informed his brothers in London that his life is in danger. This was two days before he was killed.

Foreign Ministry Denies Iranian POW Allegations

JN2707110494 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0910 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Jul (INA)—Iraq has strongly denied Iran's allegations that Iraq is still keeping Iranian prisoners, and that 10,000 Iraqi prisoners had requested asylum in Iran.

This has come in a statement to the Iraqi News Agency by an official spokesman for the Foreign Ministry in response to a report carried by the Iranian News Agency on 14 July 1994 quoting Mohammad 'Ali Nazaran, chairman of the Iranian POW's committee, claiming that the number of registered Iranian prisoners in Iraq is more than 31,778, of which more than 16,000 are in secret Iraqi camps. He also claimed that the Iranians will ask the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] to follow up this case. The Iranian agency also quoted Nazaran as saying that 10,000 Iraqi prisoners had requested asylum in Iran, and that they are present in Iran.

The spokesman said the Foreign Ministry strongly rejects the Iranian official's allegations, and emphasizes that facts cannot be hidden, and the continuation of such deceptive allegations about Iranian prisoners in Iraq will widen the gap between the Iranian officials and the Iranian public opinion because they did not tell the truth about the number of Iranians killed during the war imposed on Iraq.

The spokesman added that we want to emphasize to the Iranian people and the whole world that, based on the testimony of the ICRC, Iraq does not keep any Iranian prisoners. Since August 1990, Iraq started to return all the Iranians POW's, whose number is 39,043. Only a small number of Iranians who refused to return to Iran remained in Iraq, and they expressed their positions to the ICRC representatives in accordance with the Geneva Convention of 1949 on the treatment of POW's, and to the Iranian side who visited and spoke with them late in 1990.

The official spokesman asked the Iranian officials to stop their violations of international human law, the Geneva Convention of 1949, and the principles of noble Islam, and to release thousands of Iraqi POW's, whether registered or unregistered. He also called for the ICRC representatives to be allowed by the Iranian Government to visit the Iraqi prisoners and follow up on their cases in accordance with the Geneva Convention. The spokesman asked Iran to allow ICRC activities on its territory.

The spokesman said: We remind Nazaran and the other Iranian officials that the claim that 10,000 Iraqi prisoners had requested asylum in Iran was untrue because it was not supported by the ICRC, therefore, this claim is considered a violation of the 3d Geneva Convention of 1949. It seems that Nazaran's statement was an attempt to justify the illegitimate Iranian position which insists on not freeing the Iraqi prisoners, in violation of relevant international laws and norms.

The spokesman added that while Iraq hopes that the Iranian officials will realize the seriousness of their illegal policy, and will expedite closing this humanitarian dossier to entrench the principle of good-neighborliness and the principles of noble Islam, we also urge the ICRC to shoulder its responsibilities through working for the release of Iraqi prisoners in Iran.

Minutes Signed With Jordanian Governorate

JN2307153894 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1445 GMT 23 Jul 94

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Jul (INA)—Interior Minister Watban Ibrahim al-Hasan today conferred with Qaftan al-Majali, governor of al-Mafraq in sisterly Jordan.

The minister commended the genuinely Arab stands of the Jordanian people and leadership during the 30-state aggression on Iraq.

The minister outlined the adverse effects on Iraqi women and children and the elderly of the ban imposed by the United States and its allies on imports of medicines and foodstuffs.

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Al-Majali emphasized that the people and leaders of Jordan stand by great Iraq as it confronts all forms of imperialist conspiracies against itself and the glorious Arab nation.

The Iraqi Interior Ministry and the Jordanian al-Mafraq Goverenorate signed joint minutes on matters of joint jurisdiction.

They were signed for Iraq by 'Abd-Jawad Dhannun, first under secretary at the Interior Ministry, and by Qaftan al-Majali for Jordan.

The minutes provide for furthering cooperation and coordination on border issues and matters of joint jurisdiction.

Egyptian Trade Delegation Has 'Successful' Visit

NC2607161794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1515 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Jul (MENA)—An Egyptian trade delegation left Baghdad this evening after a few days' visit. During the visit, the delegation held talks with Iraqi Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih and a number of officials on the supply of Egyptian food products to Iraq.

Delegation head 'Isam al-Khashshab has stated that his visit was "successful" and achieved its objectives. He noted that the Iraqi Trade Ministry has decided to import Egyptian commodities worth $200 millions. He added that the trade center for Egyptian products, a center affiliated with the Arab Foreign Trade Company in Baghdad, which suspended its activity in 1990, will be reopened soon.

Finance Minister Receives Sudanese Trade Minister

JN2507202494 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1430 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Jul (INA)—Finance Minister Ahmad Husayn Khudayyir today met with Sudanese Trade and Industry Minister Taj-al-Sirr Mustafa who is currently visiting the country.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed means of joint cooperation and the progress made by the joint committee over the past years, in addition to setting a date for the joint committee's next meeting.

The Sudanese trade and industry minister reiterated Sudan's support for the just struggle waged by the Iraqi people and their leadership to end the unjust blockade.

Oil Minister Discusses Cooperation

JN2507202694 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1419 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Jul (INA)—Oil Minister Safa' Hadi Jawad today met with Sudanese Trade and Industry Minister Dr. Taj-al-Sirr Mustafa.

The two sides discussed means of promoting the exiting cooperation between the two countries in the industrial and oil fields, and of exchanging technical expertise in these fields.

Trade Minister Discusses Blockade

JN2507180794 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1416 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 25 Jul (INA)—Trade Minister Dr. Muhammad Mahdi Salih today met with Sudanese Industry and Trade Minister Dr. Taj-al-Sirr Mustafa and his accompanying delegation, who are currently visiting Iraq.

During the meeting, the minister reviewed the negative effects of the continuation of the blockade on the Iraqi people as a result of the shortage of food and medicine. He also reviewed the extent of destruction inflicted by the aggressors on the food and trade installations, and the Ministry's workers efforts to reconstruct them under extraordinary circumstances and with Iraqi expertise.

He also briefed the Sudanese delegation on the ration card system and the means of distributing foodstuffs to all residents of Iraq, Arabs and foreigners, equally and without discrimination.

Sudanese Industry and Trade Minister Dr. Taj-al-Sirr Mustafa denounced the continuation of the economic blockade imposed on Iraq, and described it as an unjust blockade which contravenes all international charters and norms as well as human rights.

The two ministers expressed their desire to promote relations of cooperation between the two countries in all fields in the interest of the two fraternal peoples.

Arab, Foreign Students To Pay Fees in U.S. Dollars

JN2707101694 Baghdad INA in English 0930 GMT 27 Jul 94

[Text] Baghdad, July 27, INA—Iraqi universities have announced new fees for Arab and foreign students who are willing to study at their own expenses in these universities starting from the academic year 1994-1995.

A source at the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research said such students have to pay fees in U.S. dollars.

The source added that a student who wants to study at colleges of humanities has to pay 1,500 dollars while a student who wants to learn scientific subjects should pay 2,500 dollars. The fees of studying at medical colleges are 3,000 dollars for each student.

Such fees have been collected for the first time from private Arab and foreign students in Iraq. However, Iraqi universities are still admitting Arab and foreign students who are on scholarship without collecting fees from them.

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BABIL: Russian Position on Embargo Review 'Logical'

JN2307103794 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0615 GMT 23 Jul 94

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Jul (INA)—The newspaper BABIL has described as logical the Russian position announced after the recent review to discuss Iraq's compliance with the UN Security Council resolutions in the light of Special Commission Chairman Rolf Ekeus' reports.

In an article today by Taha al-Basri, the paper says: Now that most UN Security Council members—both the permanent and non-permanent members—realize the United States is blocking any resolution to ease or lift the embargo imposed on Iraq for political reasons, it is logical for these states, particularly Russia, to develop their position to break the scheme of political blockade, not only to defend right and justice, but also to defend the genuine interests of Russia and the other states.

The paper stresses that the objective thing to do now is for Russia, and those who support it, to develop their position in the next review into a categorical rejection of the continued blockade in order to voice rejection of the political position that serves only the U.S. interest. It is logical for them to clearly disassociate themselves from continued compliance with the embargo imposed on Iraq because its justifications are no longer valid, and because Russia and the others must work for their own national interests and the interests of their peoples.

The paper says: Now that these states have changed their position after they realized, and became totally convinced, that Iraq has a right to demand an end to the blockade, the UN Security Council should fulfill its obligations. This was stated by Vorontsov, Russia's permanent representative to the United Nations.

The paper concludes by saying: What is required now is another progressive step in the next review that will lead to ending the blockade in order to uphold right and international legitimacy, which must be applied according to one standard, not double standards.

Albright Criticized for Sanctions Remarks

JN2507184794 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 22 Jul 94 p 2

["Standpoint" column by Diya' Hasan: "Madeleine Reeking of American Abjectness"]

[Text] By advancing the false claim that Iraq is withholding cooperation, or being less than sufficiently cooperative with the United Nations, U.S. UN Ambassador Madeleine Albright is only evincing typical American abjectness and spite for the people of Iraq. Her remarks are in tune with U.S. hostility toward the national interests of other peoples. Bill Clinton had named her to the job to promote U.S. policies at the UN Security Council, using devious ways and alternating the carrot and stick.

Madelaine Albright and her boss seem to think that a piece of misinformation can alter or suppress such facts as Iraq's principled dealings with the world body and its approach to its resolutions. As one of the founding members of the United Nations, Iraq has shown itself to be bound by its resolutions. In so doing, Iraq emphasizes a determination to deny ill-intentioned quarters the opportunity to fish in troubled waters. She would have liked Iraq to reject the unjust resolutions, but Iraq has let her down. The UN Special Commission entrusted with monitoring Iraq's compliance with Security Council Resolution 687 has vouched for Iraq's good faith and testified that it showed tangible cooperation sought by the world body. For its part, Iraq wants the Security Council to meet its obligations as called for by Paragraph C of Article 22 of the resolution, after the commission satisfied itself in the matter of the arms Iraq is prohibited from producing under UN resolutions.

The real blow to Ms. Albright came from the UN Security Council members, all of which—including Washington's allies—testified to Iraq's compliance and good faith, so much so that the Russian Foreign Ministry stated that the extension of the sanctions for another two months was conditional on the Council lifting the ban on Iraq's oil sales, in light of the fact that Iraq has met all its commitments, and thus there is no case for keeping the sanctions in place.

Would that Ms. Madeleine, for once, had the courage to acknowledge that the time was past for getting away with slander and buying other council member states. The game is up; the other members now understand that by insisting on retention of the sanctions, the the United States is clearly giving precedence to its own interests over theirs.

I do not think that Ms. Albright or her administration are unaware of the facts of the international situation or the steadfastness of our people. Before long, the United States must come to terms with realities. Swimming against the tide is neither easy nor convincing to the American public opinion and its constitutional institutions. This is because, in the final analysis, the United States will decide in favor of its own interests. It serves everybody's interests to do business with Iraq.

Writer Criticizes Clinton's Letter to Congress

JN2507133694 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0630 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Jul (INA)—An Iraqi writer has refuted the false allegations by the United States and the rulers of Kuwait against Iraq, which aim to justify the continuation of the blockade.

In an article in the "Standpoint" column, published in the newspaper AL-THAWRAH today, Sabri Hammadi said that Clinton was not ashamed of lying in his letter to the Congress. Clinton said the Iraqi Government is still

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carrying out actions which conflict with stability in the Middle East and which are hostile to the U.S. interests in the region.

Hammadi added that Clinton did not give any proof to confirm this claim. He wondered: What is the Iraqi conduct that is posing a continuous and extraordinary threat to the U.S. national security and vital interests?

The Iraqi writer asserted that the unable Clinton cannot give a single practical example to confirm this false claim. Moreover, Clinton cannot acknowledge, even to himself, that the Zionist octopus, which is tightly controlling the Clinton administration, is standing behind these lies and vituperations, and that Clinton's servants in the region are generously paying his advisers and subordinates to take this tendentious position against Iraq.

Hammadi adds: The rulers of Kuwait have played their role in this fabricated uproar against Iraq in line with these and other false U.S. allegations. Thus, the Kuwaiti media took advantage of the fact that two Kuwaiti children were returned to Kuwait upon the request of their mother to join her husband in Kuwait by saying that the two children were detained in Iraq, which is untrue.

The writer wonders: Why all this fabricated clamor against Iraq? Why all these vituperations, which aim to harm the reputation of Iraq? He says: Definitely, the U.S. officials and their agents in the region are now well aware that Iraq has actually managed to break the blockade and that the date to totally and finally lift it is close.

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Rabin, Beilin Comment on London Bombing

Beilin Interviewed

TA2607142494 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1300 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Telephone interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin by Yaron Wilensky—live]

[Text] [Wilensky] Last week there was a bomb attack in Argentina, today a bomb exploded in London. Is this a new front of terror?

[Beilin] I would not want to analyze this too lightly. We have to examine and study precisely what happened there. We know that London is not free of all terror. I would not want to start discussing fronts of terror before we know for certain who is behind today's attack. At the same time, it is clear that today there is increased activity by extreme Muslim organizations which oppose the peace process. Our role is to be very alert and do everything we can. We cannot totally prevent such incidents in the future, but we must continue with the peace process if only to show the terror organizations that their scheme will not succeed.

[Wilensky] An expert on terrorism told us last week that the terror organizations prefer operating in South America, for example, because they are less afraid of reactions there, and today there was an attack in London. Do you detect a change in their operating and thinking patterns?

[Beilin] Well, again, I would like to wait until we know for certain who perpetrated the attack. Naturally, if this is an indication of activity by extreme Muslim organizations in Europe, it is indeed a change in their mode of operation which requires changes in European preparedness for such situations.

[Wilensky] If indeed an extreme Muslim terror organization is responsible for this attack, do you believe the attacks will intensify as we make progress on the peace process, such as the ceremony in Washington yesterday?

[Beilin] I certainly cannot rule out the possibility that such terror organizations might try to intensify their activity the more they believe the threat of peace, so to speak, intensifies. This only proves that we should disregard them, not be intimidated by them, and continue on our way while doing everything we can to hurt them.

[Wilensky] What can you tell us about the way the Foreign Ministry is dealing with incident?

[Beilin] The minute we learned about it, we established contact with the British authorities. We also placed our embassies around the world on alert for fear that this might be an indication that a wave of terror by extreme organizations is on the rise. I would say we are on greater alert than previously, and it has been very high so far.

Rabin on Islamic Threat

TA2607143794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1405 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by Arye Golan in Washington, D.C., on 26 July; broadcast in progress—recorded]

[Text] [Rabin] ... Extreme Islamic movements have been carrying out terrorist attacks against us for a long time. We are in the midst of an ongoing battle against Hizballah, which has been attempting to harm us. Yesterday, another IDF [Israel Defense Forces] officer fell in that battle. This morning a woman was stabbed in north Jerusalem. Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the Islamic Jihad are pursuing their activities against Israelis and against peace.

In parallel, extreme Islamic organizations are carrying out terrorist attacks on the international arena. They operated in Buenos Aires, where they carried out a terrible, murderous attack on the local Jewish community. There was an attempted attack in Thailand. They attacked the World Trade Center in New York. Now they have struck in London. The extreme Islamic movements have a terrorist infrastructure spread over the entire globe: in the United States, South America, Europe, as well as the Far East. The world must wake up to the acute danger posed by the Islamic movements, some of which are linked to Iranian elements. The world must wake up before a greater tragedy occurs.

Furthermore, I have no doubt that as the peace process makes progress, the extreme international Islamic terror will try to step up its activity, in a bid to threaten the peace supporters and the peace makers.

[Golan] Have you issued instructions to amplify the security arrangements in Israeli representations, and perhaps also in local Jewish institutions abroad?

[Rabin] Appropriate steps were taken even before the recent events. Judging by the initial report I have received, a disaster was averted in London thanks to security arrangements, namely, the fact that parking in the vicinity of the embassy was prohibited. These steps have undoubtedly prevented a disaster, because due to the security measures implemented by the British authorities and by our people, the explosion occurred quite far away from the embassy building.

Ministry: UK Refusing More Security

TA2707083394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 27 Jul 94

[Text] Speaking to our correspondent this morning, Yehuda Milo, deputy director general at the Foreign Ministry, said that at the moment the car bomb exploded outside the Israeli Embassy in London, envoy Ya'aqov Hadas was busy sending a telegram to Jerusalem in which he said that Britain had refused to expand security precautions for the Jewish institutes in the city. Milo

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noted that several other countries are not alert enough to the security needs of the Israeli representations and the Jewish community.

Bomb Discovered on Train, Safely Defused

TA2607132994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Text] An explosive charge was discovered aboard a train traveling from Nahariyya to Tel Aviv, and was safely defused. Our correspondent Nati Zilberman reports that after the charge was found, police bomb disposal experts were summoned to the scene.

The bomb was made of demolition blocks tied to an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] training rocket, and a fuse.

Eyewitnesses said they saw a man running away from the train at the Qiryat Motzkin station. The police have launched searches.

Rabin Interviewed on Jerusalem's Status

NC2607190194 London MBC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Text] In an exclusive interview with the MBC Television, the Israeli prime minister called on Syria to hold direct and quiet negotiations with his country in the presence of the U.S. side. He said that the Syrians would be wrong to assume that the United States is pressuring Israel in anyway.

With regard to Jerusalem, Yitzhaq Rabin reiterated that Israel prefers for Jordan to supervise the Islamic shrines in the city, adding that Jerusalem will remain united under Israeli sovereignty.

[Begin recording] [Rabin, in English with superimposed Arabic translation] When we negotiate about the final status of Jerusalem in two years—a matter to which we are committed under our agreement with the Palestinians—we will give priority to the historic role of Jordan in supervising the holy shrines in Jerusalem.

Allow me to explain to you the historic context in which this will happen. Jerusalem will remain a united city under Israeli sovereignty. It will remain our capital. As for Jerusalem's status as a holy place for Muslims and Christians, we have to make sure that Jerusalem will remain open and available to all who want to visit it to practice their religious rites.

The administration of the holy places will not be our task. It will be carried out by whomever the Islamic world decides is fit for this role. This will be a religious decision, not a political one. The Jordanians enjoy priority in this regard, because this is a role that they have played for many years.

[Correspondent 'Aziz Fahmi, speaking in English with superimposed Arabic translation] Allow me to differ with you on what concerns Jerusalem. You say that it will be the last issue to be negotiated. Meanwhile, you say that it is Israel's eternal capital. What is the final status of Jerusalem?

[Rabin] In our talks with the Palestinians, we agreed to leave at least four issues—Jerusalem, the settlements, the borders, and the refugees—to be discussed only after the Palestinians begin running their own affairs and the outcome of this process is known. In the meantime, we will keep the settlements and the security tasks on borders and in the settlements in general. Had we insisted on negotiating about these four tasks right now, we would not have been able to get anything done with the Palestinians. We hope that the Gaza-Jericho experience will enhance confidence. We will have to discuss these issues later. We have our position and they have theirs. This is legitimate. [end recording]

Rabin Explains Events Leading to Summit

TA2607152594 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 26 Jul 94 pp 8, 9

[Report by Shim'on Schiffer and Nahum Barne'a]

[Text] A few hours before the ceremony at the White House Rabin felt the need to unwind. This often happens to him at historic junctures, when everything he has been holding inside comes out all at once.

Rabin, his entire entourage, and the Israeli Embassy staff were invited to a dinner at Ambassador Itamar Rabinovich's residence. Peres was also there, but the two men did not exchange even one word the whole evening, not even niceties. Whatever Rabin had to say about Peres he said publicly, and there is no way Peres could have liked what he heard. When he saw the journalists crowding Rabin, pulling out their notebooks, eager to hear what he had to say, Peres stepped out into the garden and kept silent. Then he quietly returned to his hotel without any ceremonial farewells.

[In an insert box in the same page, Barne'a and Schiffer report that "Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres contemplated the possibility of cutting short his stay in Washington because of Rabin's abrasive behavior during their stay in the U.S. capital. Peres consulted his associates, who were split in their assessment of the seriousness of Rabin's conduct, and ultimately decided to stay on." The report goes on to say that Rabin's associates had no apologies, and that one of them said: "Peres' trip was unnecessary. It is not clear to us why he insisted on coming."]

Among other things, Rabin for the first time drew a distinction between negotiations on "heavenly Jerusalem" and on "earthly Jerusalem." Heavenly Jerusalem consists of the holy sites, and on this issue Israel faces four interested Arab parties: The PLO, Husayn, Saudi Arabia, and the Moroccan king. "I do not care if there is friction between them. I can take my time. I am in no rush. Let them fight between themselves."

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It was a monologue, broken only by the clinking of wine glasses. According to Rabin, the Jordanian option—of which Peres is so proud—was never born, and if it did it was still-born and buried. It resurfaced in a new form two months ago, exclusively and entirely through Rabin's doing.

"There was no Jordanian-Palestinian option. We would not have attained what we are attaining today had it not been for the previous move with the PLO. Jordan is ripe today, but I doubt that it was ripe in the past. Why do I say that? Because in 1988 there was an attempt to solve the Palestinian problem with Jordan's help. It stood no chance whatsoever."

The prime minister recounted for the first time his secret meeting with Husayn. "I met Husayn in London on 19 May, where we concluded everything, all the steps you are witnessing now. We decided to move the talks to our region. This became possible because, unlike the situation in the past, we decided to discuss the two most important issues to them before a peace agreement: the demarcation of the border and the distribution of water. In London we decided to hold a tripartite U.S.-Israeli-Jordanian meeting. I wanted to give a photo opportunity to Christopher.

"The move is built on two basic premises: bilateral negotiations between Israel and Jordan, and a demand from the United States to help solve Jordan's economic problems. Without helping the brave (he pronounces the word "brave" scornfully), peace will be in question. The problem is not words, but a search for practical answers.

"I, too (just like Peres), would like water from Turkey to come through Syria. This is impractical. We should concentrate on what is practical. The Jordanians must be helped out. They are just like us. They are only interested in their everyday problems."

Rabin cast a glance at the door to the ambassador's study, where a mysterious, gray-haired man was standing holding a fancy briefcase chained to his hand. "Everybody talks about their part in the Jordanian move. I am telling you, that only one man brought off this entire process. Do not write his name. He is the only one. He spent the last 10 days shuttling between Jerusalem and Amman. I also sent him to see Husayn when the latter met Clinton in Washington. He was with me in London on 19 May. He did not seek anything for himself, neither honors nor publicity. His only request from me was to take part in the dinner in the White House. He is the only the man the king trusts. All the rest are just blabbering."

While Rabin was talking, the mysterious man stood up, called Elyaqim Rubinstein and Eytan Haber, the other two members of the secret team which was set up in the Prime Minister's Office to conduct the talks with Husayn and which was kept in total secrecy from the Foreign Ministry.

Rabin continued: "After (Peres' visit to Amman on) 2 November there was a crisis. It was not Peres's fault. He did a good job, but a crisis occurred nevertheless. We had to launch a new move; something small, limited, and practical; to quit the visions. It has been 10 days that we have been discussing the joint statement. We also coordinated the wording of our speeches. I am not pleased with everything contained in the joint statement. The Jordanians were anxious about leaks, and that is why nothing was finished until the last moment. Even up until today Husayn had doubts.

"What do you think, that there is no cooperation between Jordan and Syria? The Syrians know how far Jordan will go. I will say nothing more until we sign the agreement. You remember very well what happened with 'Arafat at the last minute.

"The Jordanians said that they were prepared to reduce the size of their army while renewing its equipment. I did not ask them to reduce it to a specific size. I consider that the main problem is not futuristic visions but removing the psychological barrier. I do not like prophets.

"The Americans approached me on Wednesday [13 July] two weeks ago. Husayn suggested that our meeting should take place upon the opening of the bilateral talks at 'En 'Avrona. Both I and the Americans did not feel any urgency. What I insisted upon was on the tripartite meeting by the Dead Sea (between Peres, al-Majali, and Christopher), and that our own meeting should take place later.

"What is the importance of the move with Jordan? I wanted to undo the framework of the Washington talks. Ever since I became involved in such affairs—and I participated in the Rhodes talks in 1949—I saw that agreement can be reached with the Arabs only if we talk with each one of them individually. The meeting in Washington was meant to remove the psychological barrier. We finished one good thing, so let us go ahead with the Jordanians.

"With the Syrians the issue is far more complex. The Syrians are disappointed. They believe that America should deliver Israel to them. As long as they do not understand that this will not be the case, they will not speak directly with us.

"A very senior Egyptian (Mubarak) told me: Al-Asad will not give anything on your issue to me, he will only give the Americans since he can get something from them. Al-Asad will not come now. Do you think that al-Asad can afford to look like Jordan's tail? He is no less interested in pursuing the process than we are. Patience is required."

Rabin was asked whether he, just like Peres, intends to invite Husayn to Jerusalem. He replied: "I do not play with such things. I only play with practical things.

"Did you hear Husayn's position on the question of Jerusalem? Unlike the Palestinians, Husayn distinguishes between earthly and heavenly Jerusalem. There are disagreements among the Arabs. Four elements

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demand a status in Jerusalem: The PLO, which is not a religious element but (mockingly) is constantly improving on that count; Husayn, Saudi Arabia, and the Moroccan king. They fight among themselves. Until the Arab world gets its act together, I have plenty of time. If I accept the distinction between earthly and heavenly Jerusalem, then we have something to talk about."

Rabin was asked whether he supports the Vaticanization of the holy sites. "What Vatican, which Vatican? Give me a break." Rabin suddenly remembered the demonstrations being staged against him by the settlers. "I do not give a damn about them. I could not care less about what they scream. If I believe in something, I go with it all the way.

"I am worried about what is happening in Gaza. 'Arafat has failed to found institutions which will enable the world to give him money. Some $500-$600 million are waiting for him. The Americans proposed to him to pay the salaries of all the Palestinian policemen. They only asked him to provide bank account numbers. 'Arafat categorically objected. I understand him. How does he control the situation? By a divide-and-rule policy. All the money is in his hands. Does this not slightly bring to mind the situation in our country? In the Cairo talks we proposed to hand them over the authority to collect taxes, but we realized that 'Arafat was not interested. As a matter of principle, he does not want to collect taxes. Indirectly, this also becomes our problem."

Rabin offhandedly scorned the evaluations of intelligence experts about the Arab world. "You remember what they said before al-Asad's visit in 1977. Mordekhay Gur (who publicly spoke of the evaluation whereby al-Sadat was scheming a war) was not at fault. Israeli intelligence was wrong in all its national assessments. The exact opposite happened in every case. I remember what they wrote on the eve of the Six-Day War. They also wrote to me that Husayn would not join in without the Syrians."

Rabin went on to attack the Knesset because of recent controversial legislation. "It is absurd. People who have never done any executive job legislate laws. The idiots went on to legislate a law banning the encouragement of Israeli-made products. There are bleeding hearts in the two largest parties, starting with Dan Meridor and ending with you-know-who (Liba'i) in my own party; lawyers looking to help other lawyers to make a living. People say that I am opposed to the High Court of Justice. Absolute nonsense. The legislators are to blame."

"Yitzhaq," Le'a Rabin nudged him, "soon they will start playing the national anthem." Rabin got up and went to sleep.

Further Reaction to Washington Summit, Declaration

Netanyahu, Shamir React

TA2607130694 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 26 Jul 94 p 4

[Report by Menahem Rahat]

[Text] Likud leader Binyamin Netanyahu said that the wording on the question of Jerusalem in the agreement with Husayn is worrisome, if it hints at the intention of the Rabin government to forego Israel's sovereignty over any part of Jerusalem in the negotiations on the permanent arrangement. "Nevertheless, in general, the ceremony was a positive event," he said.

Netanyahu added: "In our experience, plans to make concessions in Jerusalem are more than a reasonable possibility when it comes to a government that is incapable of standing firm on anything."

Former Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said that Israel's willingness to award King Husayn a special status in the Muslim holy sites in Jerusalem does not bother him. He noted that when he first heard the wording of the agreement he became highly anxious and voiced his opposition. "But later, when I heard the full text, I calmed down. After all, the term 'Muslim holy sites' need not necessarily include the Temple Mount. The Temple Mount is a Jewish, not a Muslim, holy place. To me, this is as clear as day. However, the Washington Declaration makes no mention of the Temple Mount."

Editorial on Impact on Peace Process

TA2607123894 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 26 Jul 94 p 6

[Editorial: "The White House Ceremony"]

[Text] Yesterday's moving ceremony at the White House recalled the scene there 15 years ago, when then-prime minister Menahem Begin and president Anwar al-Sadat signed the Camp David accords. But the resemblance was mostly in the fact that an Israeli premier and an Arab head of state publicly shook hands and agreed that the war between them was over.

There were also significant differences between the two occasions. Israel and Jordan have not been at war for two decades. In fact, in the years of formal peace with Egypt, more Israelis have been killed by Egyptians than as a result of incidents on the Jordanian border. Nor has the Washington ceremony marked the signing of a peace treaty. It was more a photo opportunity which put a public stamp on an existing situation.

Indeed, the practical results are meager. The borders have yet to be demarcated, something which Jordanian officials say may take six months. Nor was there an official announcement on opening the borders to Israeli tourists traveling on Israeli passports, or on opening consular offices to facilitate movement between the countries. For now, Jordanians can still travel to Israel, while Israeli tourists cannot travel to Jordan.

Nor has the Jordanian government announced the repeal of Nuremberg-like laws which prohibit Jews from living in Jordan and make selling land to Jews a capital offense.

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Yet the effect of yesterday's ceremony should not be underestimated. The impact on the Arab world of open, warm relations between an Israeli premier and an Arab king, particularly one who rules over a mostly Palestinian people, must be immense. The momentum of peace has been given an extraordinary impetus.

The role of the United States in the happy event must be noted with special appreciation. It may be true that the Clinton administration needed a foreign policy triumph after many recent disappointments. And it is true, too, that Jordan would not have been ready to collaborate in this event had it not received an American pledge to have its debt of almost $1 billion canceled and its army equipped with advanced weaponry, including F-16s. But the fact is that Secretary of State Warren Christopher, often unjustly derided for ineffectualness, managed to pull all the disparate and often conflicting elements of this agreement together with consummate skill.

It must be hoped that with his expertise and wisdom, Christopher will help Israel extricate itself from the morass of the PLO orientation into which it got itself. The most promising clause in yesterday's agreement is the one which stresses the special Jordanian role in Jerusalem's Moslem holy places, and which promises to give special consideration to that role in negotiations on the "final status."

The Madrid conference convened with the Palestinian representatives appearing as part of the Jordanian delegation. This arrangement, on which the Likud government insisted, stressed the affinity of the Palestinian people on both sides of the River Jordan. If yesterday's ceremony can help Israel move back to this orientation, with Jordan playing the dominant role in any "final status" arrangement between Israelis and Palestinians, the date of July 25 will be remembered as a true turning point in the peace process.

Editorial on Ceremony, Peace Process

TA2607144394 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 26 Jul 94 p 9

[Editorial: "A Big Step Forward"]

[Text] Washington—The comprehensive and full peace process in the Middle East took yet another big historic step forward yesterday. In his speech on the White House lawn President Clinton did not forget to mention all the stages preceding this process: the outcome of the Camp David conference hosted by President Carter, the Madrid conference, the agreement with 'Arafat, and now, the Washington Declaration which heralds the full peace between Israel and the Jordanian kingdom.

The first step seemingly exceeded even the minimal expectations the delegations had until yesterday. King Husayn did not just announce the end of the state of belligerency between his kingdom and Israel, but also the end of the state of war, which is a little bit more than had been expected and only slightly less than a contractual and full peace.

The joint declaration signed yesterday heralds immediate steps for a normalization between the two countries even before the attainment of a contractual peace agreement. It provides for the opening of the borders to tourism, ties between Elat and al-'Aqabah, and so on. However, these are just the initial details designed to make it easier for the people of both countries to make the transition from a state of hostility to a direct dialogue and from suspiciousness to mutual trust. It is no coincidence that both Rabin and Husayn addressed themselves to their own people and to millions of Muslims and Jews from the podium on the White House's South Lawn, each of including religious motives in his speech on the path to peace.

At this moment of great elation one must remember that although the Washington Declaration is a very important step toward peace with Jordan and recognition of Israel's legitimacy by our neighboring kingdom, this is still a single step which must be followed by progress toward full peace with Syria and Lebanon and with other parts of the Arab and Muslim world.

The White House went to great lengths to emphasize that the agreement is not directed against Syria and that it is not meant to isolate it. Washington still regards Syria as a country committed to peace and intent on fulfilling it.

Al-Asad may be a tougher negotiator, may have not yet come to terms with the need to make peace, or may be trying to shorten the timetable for a withdrawal.

For his part, Rabin probably realizes that peace with Syria is not the object of everybody's desire. Therefore, he wants to take his time. However, peace with Syria will also come about and probably not before long. This will complete the process of acceptance and recognition of Israel in less than 50 years since its establishment and a new era will start in which Israel will live securely as an independent and recognized state.

Syria, Hizballah Attacks Linked by Army Leader

TA2707105594 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 27 Jul 94 p 2

[Report by Dan Izenberg]

[Text] Deputy Chief of Staff Maj.-Gen. Amnon Shahaq yesterday did not rule out the possibility of coordination between the Hizbullah and Syria during Monday's [25 July] attack on IDF [Israel Defense Forces] troops in the security zone.

Addressing the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, Shahaq also said the attack was probably timed to coincide with the meeting in Washington between Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Jordan's King Husayn; but he did not attribute much significance

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to the fact. "There were also attacks in the week before the agreement," he said. "We have a war with the Hizbullah which did not begin yesterday and will not end tomorrow."

Shahaq told the MKs [Knesset members] part of the Hizbullah attack was conducted from Syrian-controlled territory. "The Syrians knew about the attack and I would not be surprised if there was coordination between Hizbullah and them," Shahaq was quoted as saying.

Interviewed after the meeting, Shahaq said: "I do not know about Syrian involvement in the incident but I do know that Hizbullah's main bases are located in territory supervised by Syria. The Syrians are also deployed in areas south of Ba'labakk reaching almost to the outskirts of the security zone. I can assume the Syrians know about Hizbullah activity against us."

Shahaq told the committee that the paratroop officer killed in yesterday's incident was hit by a mortar shell which landed inside an IDF outpost.

He said the attack had apparently been planned in advance and followed what was becoming a routine pattern.

"They began by firing Sagger missiles at a convoy," Shahaq told the committee. "Afterwards, they fired mortars and katyusha rockets at IDF and SLA [South Lebanese Army] outposts along a much broader front. They fired artillery along with the rest. The attack also involved coordination between assault and covering forces. A considerable Hizbullah force was involved."

Shahaq rejected assessments by MKs that the Hizbullah were able to strike at the IDF with impunity. He said the past year had "not been the worst one" for the IDF in the war against the Hizbullah and that the army had foiled many attacks which did not go reported.

"We are investing a great deal of thought in our operations in southern Lebanon," said Shahaq. "The fight against the Hizbullah is not a simple matter."

Regarding other topics, Shahaq made the following points:

- a current investigation into the events at Erez Junction has proved that some Palestinian policemen fired directly at Israeli security forces.
- Jericho secret service chief Jibril al-Rujub is demonstrating "a great deal of independence" but there is no proof that he has violated the Israeli-PLO agreement.
- the army missions to Argentina and Rwanda have cost millions. The money was taken from the Defense budget.
- the number of days of reserve duty will not be cut next year despite the Gaza/Jericho Accord because the standing army has to spend much of its time in training exercises.
- the final decision on the size of Jericho must be made by August 4. Shahaq said he doubted there would be any change in the map.

'No Intentions' of Establishing Ties With Serbia

TA2707105994 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 27 Jul 94 p 19

[Report by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer]

[Text] The U.S. Administration warned Israel to refrain from any contacts with the Serbian regime in Belgrade.

The warning was delivered by the head of Vice President Al Gore's office to Mikha'el Shilo, minister plenipotentiary at the Israeli Embassy in Washington.

The U.S. Administration was alarmed by reports published in Israel regarding the visit of an Israeli delegation headed by Knesset member Ori Or, chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, to Belgrade.

The Americans are participating in the international sanctions against the Serbian regime in the former Yugoslavia. In the framework of these sanctions, contacts with the Belgrade government have been reduced to a bare minimum.

Shilo said Israel has no intention of establishing diplomatic relations with the Serbians.

The delegation headed by Or visited Belgrade in order to aid the Jewish community there.

Muslim Leader on East Jerusalem, Holy Sites

TA2607163694 Tel Aviv Educational Television Network in Hebrew 1400 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Interview with Shaykh 'Abdallah Nimr Darwish, leader of the Israeli Islamic Movement, by Sheli Yehimovich in the studio—live]

[Text] [Yehimovich] It seems that Jordan's King Husayn won the race with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and will be the first to pray in the holy sites in Jerusalem.

[Darwish] Look, you—meaning the Israeli Government and politics—have created this race between the Arab leaders, and it is the Israeli politics and policy which gains from this race, which I believe is ugly. Arab, Muslim East Jerusalem is an inseparable part of the Arab and Muslim world. I do not intend to cheat the Israelis, the Israeli politicians, or the children we have just heard who want peace. Gentlemen: Unless Jerusalem is returned to an Arab-Muslim rule, there will be no peace here even if all the Arab and Muslim leaders sign agreements. Yes, there may be peace between governments and regimes, but there will be no peace between the nations, which is the important thing. I doubt that we will attain peace if Jerusalem remains under the threat of this race between 'Arafat and the king.

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[Yehimovich] You made your point, Shaykh Darwish, but the current political situation is that the Israeli Government is declaring, at least formally, that it has no intention of giving up on Jerusalem. In view of the current political situation, do you believe Israel made a mistake by placing itself between the PLO and Jordan? Should it let you run matters alone?

[Darwish] Yes. I will repeat: The issue of Jerusalem should be solved by the Arabs and the Muslims, and Israel should not be the third party between them. Israel should unequivocally declare: We are reinstating the situation that prevailed before the Six-Day War, and you solve your problems among yourselves. Israel should not place its head on Husayn's or 'Arafat's pillow. Leave them alone, and they will work out their own problems. As far as Israel is concerned, it should reinstate the territorial situation that prevailed before 1967, while changing the political situation and open bridges and ties with the Arab world.

[Yehimovich] But, in practice, the al-Aqsa Mosque has always been extra territorial Jordan; they have managed it and paid the Waqf officials' salaries. It seems absolutely natural for Jordan to assume control there, does it not?

[Darwish] Excuse me, we are misleading the people here. Jordan has divorced itself from the West Bank, including Jerusalem, politically and legally. The king himself had dissociated himself from the West Bank and Jerusalem. He said that the West Bank, with Jerusalem in it, will be handled by the Palestinians. I would also like to add something which I believe is very important: The State of Israel existed before the Six-Day War; the State of Israel can go on existing after it returns the territories outside the 1967 boundaries.

[Yehimovich] You know, as do many, that numerous Muslim elements do not want the PLO or Jordan, and certainly not Israel, in charge of the holy sites in Jerusalem. Why, then, should the PLO assume control there?

[Darwish] Look, I will repeat what I have often said in the past, spiritual control over the holy sites belongs to the entire Muslim world, because spiritual control over Mecca and Medina is in Muslim hands.

[Yehimovich] Not the PLO or Jordan?

[Darwish] Not the PLO. Spiritual control over three sites—Mecca, Medina, and Jerusalem; that is the Ka'bah, the Prophet's Mosque, and the al-Aqsa Mosque—belongs to Muslims, and not to this or other leader.

Finance Minister Shohat Meets With Abu-'Ala'

TA2607122894 Jerusalem Government Press Office in English 1544 GMT 25 Jul 94

["Communicated by Finance Ministry spokesman"]

[Text] Following yesterday's successful meeting between Finance Minister Avraham (Beiga) Shohat and the Palestinian Authority's representative for Economics and Trade, Ahmad Quray' (Abu-'Ala'), NIS [new Israeli shekels] 7 million is being transferred to the Palestine Authority from Israel and eight joint committees dealing with economic affairs begin work next Monday (01.08.94).

The meeting, the first one since the signing of the Paris Economic Agreement in late April 1994, took place at the Jericho District Coordination Office in Vered Jeriho. According to Shohat, this was, "a positive meeting continuing in the same cooperative atmosphere seen at the Paris Talks." Abu-'Ala' said that as usual, the meeting was constructive and effective because the sides are fulfilling there obligations regarding implementation of the framework set out in the Paris agreement.

The eight joint Israeli-Palestinian working groups will begin their work (01.08.94) at still-to-be decided locations. They will be responsible for discussing frameworks and implementing the economic accords in these eight areas: trade, agriculture, monetary and banking issues, tourism, economic cooperation, labor, and taxation. The taxation group will be split into three sub-committees dealing with VAT, direct taxation, and customs.

At the meeting's end, Shohat announced Israel would immediately remit NIS7 million to the Palestinian Authority as part of its agreement to forward VAT and customs duties levied on goods coming into Israel bound for the Autonomous region. According to Shohat, this represents the total taxes collected for the Autonomy's goods from May through July.

Abu-'Ala' raised a number of issues during the meeting, including a request that more permits be granted for Palestinian workers to work in Israel, especially those from Gaza. He also asked that Israel relax restrictions on allowing Palestinian produce to enter the country. Shohat told him that Israel would do everything in its power to allow more workers into the country and is well aware of the needs of Palestinian labor. Presently some 24,000 Palestinian workers hold permits to work in Israel. In principle, Israel would like more Palestinians to work in Israel. A few thousand Palestinians currently work in Israel without permits, said Shohat.

Shohat noted that the transfer of NIS7 million showed the Israeli Government's good will towards the Palestinians. Abu-'Ala' said that due to the positive atmosphere of the Paris talks and yesterday's discussions, a number of cooperative economic Palestinian-Israeli ventures will be established. However, Abu-'Ala' noted that economic difficulties exist and one of the major challenges facing the two sides is overcoming them.

Increasing the number of work permits for Palestinian workers is dependent upon Israeli market forces and security needs. If the security situation calms down, said

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Shohat, he believed greater employment opportunities would open up for Palestinians in Israel.

At the discussion's end, Shohat suggested to Abu-Ala that they continue meetings like this in the venue of his Jerusalem office and in Abu-'Ala's offices in Jericho.

Israeli participants: David Brodet, 'Oded 'Eran, Avi Ben-Basat, Yoram Gabay, Arye Zeiff, Tamar Hecker, Israel 'Oz, Nir Gil'ad, and Efrayim Arbel.

Palestinian Participants: Dr. Amin Haddad, 'Atif Al-'Awnah, Samir Halaylah, Nasr Tahbub, and Hamdi Kan'an.

Liba'i Hosts Abu-Middayn at Knesset

TA2607121994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Text] At the Knesset today, Justice Minister David Liba'i hosted Furayh Abu-Middayn, the man in charge of legal affairs in the Palestinian autonomy. The two dined at the Knesset cafeteria. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that this was the first time that a minister of the Palestinian Authority was a guest of the Knesset

Security Chief on Autonomy Agreement, Casualties

TA2607125494 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 26 Jul 94 p 12

[Report by Dan Izenberg]

[Text] The head of the General Security Services [GSS] presented figures yesterday indicating a drastic drop in the number of intifada-related casualties and incidents since the implementation of autonomy in Gaza and Jericho, according to sources on the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee.

He also told the committee that the GSS is investigating the cases of 117 Israeli Arab security prisoners, to determine whether their release can be expedited.

Eight Israelis have been killed in Israel and the territories during the months of May, June and July, compared with 28 in the previous three months, he said. Twenty-nine Israelis were wounded during the past three months, compared with 121 in the months of February, March and April. The number of Palestinians killed since the self-rule began has dropped from 34 to 10.

During the past three months, the number of violent incidents in the Gaza District dropped from 480 to 60, inside the Green Line from 22 to six, and in Jerusalem from 98 to 33.

Binyamin Netanyahu (Likud) reportedly expressed surprise at the figures and said they did not tally with his information. Ran Kohen (Meretz) said the statistics were proof of the success of the Gaza/Jericho agreement.

Meanwhile, the GSS head also told the committee that security officials are examining the cases of Israeli security prisoners with the intention of reducing some sentences. The examination includes the nature of the crime, the portion of the sentence already served, and the conduct of the prisoner.

He stressed that no one convicted of killing Jews will be given an early release.

Navy Chief on New Ships, Terrorism, Arab Navies

TA2707114494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 27 Jul 94

[Text] Rear Admiral 'Ami Ayalon, commander of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] Navy, said today that the receipt for operational service of the Navy ship Elat today, and the future receipt of more Saar-5 missile boats and of Dolphin submarines, enables the Navy to deal with possible war scenarios at the turn of the century. Israel should continue sailing and showing its force at sea in time of peace and in time of war.

The Navy commander said that over the past several months, the ability of terrorists to operate at sea has dropped, but they keep trying to attack from the sea. Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that Adm. Ayalon said that some Arab navies are undergoing a process of reinforcement, and the Iranian Navy has been receiving new Russian-made Kilo submarines. The Russian Navy is renewing combat systems and upgrading existing ones, he said.

Army Chief on Regional Security Issues

BR2607121994 Paris AIR & COSMOS/AVIATION INTERNATIONAL in French 11-24 Jul 94 p 41

[Interview with General Herzl Budinger, Air Force chief of staff, by Claudine Meyer; place and date not given: "Budinger: 'We Will Examine French Offers To Replace the Fouga-Magister'"—first paragraph is AIR & COSMOS/AVIATION INTERNATIONAL introduction]

[Text] General Herzl Budinger, chief of state of the Israeli Air Force, is responsible for Israel's air defense. At a time when Yasir 'Arafat is arriving in Jericho, Jerusalem and Amman are drafting closer relations, while talks with Damascus are still deadlocked, he brings us up to date on issues of air defense and Israel's choice of equipment.

[Meyer] While talks with Syria are deadlocked, what are relations like between the forces of your two countries?

[Budinger] For a long time after the USSR broke up, our neighbor Syria was not being rearmed. However, last year, Russia again became the country's main supplier and new weapons arrived, including MiG-29's, which are technically on a par with F-15's, F- 16's, and F-18's, and new-generation missiles. All this was done despite

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the trade deficit Damascus has with Moscow. We regret this move since it encourages war.

As for the issue of restoring the Golan Heights to Syria, that is first and foremost a political problem. Our Air Force scarcely has any installations that close to the border. If relations did improve, it would not change anything for our pilots. We are studying all sorts of scenarios so as to be ready for any eventuality.

[Meyer] Does Palestinian autonomy change anything for Israel's air defense?

[Budinger] We are not hindered when we overfly these regions, and I cannot see that situation changing with Palestinian autonomy.

[Meyer] What do you think of the "Arrow" interception missile, which is considered to be very costly and which is often criticized?

[Budinger] There are only three countries capable of intercepting a ground-to-ground missile: the United States, Russia, and Israel. For us, given the narrowness of our country but also the impossibility for our neighbors to strike at us from the air (thanks to our defense system), this missile is essential to counter threats. The Israeli army will not oppose the purchase of this kind of system. We have to reexamine the distribution between strategic weapons and antiterrorist defense: These enemy missiles, whose quality is constantly improving, can penetrate our airspace and threaten the civilian population and military installations. We must be even better equipped because, in addition to Russia and North Korea, a growing number of countries are now producing their own weapons. Some of these countries are in the Middle East and have [production] capacities we can no longer measure.

During the Gulf War, Israel decided not to intervene in Iraq because the missiles that hit us were not charged and did relatively little damage. Moreover, this kind of operation would have complicated things for the coalition opposed to Saddam Husayn without significantly contributing to the war effort. However, in a war between just Israel and an aggressor, we would take a different course of action. If enemy missiles were dispatched, an Israeli fighter-bomber could cause much worse damage with a dozen or so 500- kg bombs. Such reprisals are all the more severe since new, larger missiles are quite capable of carrying chemical or nuclear warheads. For example, the threat from Iran, and not just that country, has to be taken into account at the international level.

[Meyer] Does Israel risk being attacked with weapons that it itself exports?

[Budinger] The economic difficulties faced by our military industrial groups have encouraged them to expand their export markets. However, the Air Force would immediately take a stand against any deal that risked our own defense system being copied or in any way jeopardized. Moreover, we pride ourselves in offering our troops better training than that received in neighboring countries which, nevertheless, have similar-performance weaponry. In any case, this lead we have in military training encourages us not to share our training with anyone else.

[Meyer] Did the visit of French Defense Minister Francois Leotard mark the start of a new era in military relations between our two countries?

[Budinger] Our experience in the fifties and sixties was positive, as can be seen, for example, in our attachment to the Fouga-Magister. This aircraft will probably remain in service as a pilot trainer until the year 2000 thanks to the modernity of its hydraulics and avionics systems. When the time comes to replace it, we will examine the French offers, but we will also take a look at U.S., British, Czech, and Romanian offers.

Today, it is true, most of our equipment is supplied by the Americans and it is hard to make any radical changes, especially for heavy weaponry such as combat aircraft. However, where lighter weapons systems are concerned, and other weaponry and military electronics, a switch is very possible and we are currently assessing the various types of equipment on offer.

Kakh Holds Paramilitary Camp in Qiryat 'Arba

TA2607123494 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 25 Jul 94 p 4

[Report by Bill Hutman and Herb Keinon]

[Text] Kakh may have been outlawed and its top leadership jailed, but this has not deterred the organization from running a summer camp for youth, providing them with para-military training and indoctrination.

Organizers gave several journalists a tour of the camp in Qiryat 'Arba yesterday. The organizers said they are not violating the law because they are operating as "former Kakh activists."

Nine teenagers attended what the organizers described as the first session, which ends today. Two other sessions are planned for Qiryat 'Arba and Mitzpe Yeriho in the coming weeks.

With no attempt to hide their activities, the youths were taken through a series of military drills at the soccer field in Qiryat 'Arba. They carried machine guns, pistols, and knives. During the camp the youths slept in the homes of "former" Kakh activists in Qiryat 'Arba.

"I've had enough with the Arabs always attacking us, and we not responding," said Moshe, a 16-year-old from the Shmu'el Hanavi neighborhood of Jerusalem.

"I'm here to prepare to take revenge for the next attack," said the teenager, who like the others wore yellow

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T-shirts with "They Won't Break Us" emblazoned on the back and "We Are All Kahana" on the front.

The youths were also taken to pray at the grave of Barukh Goldstein, who carried out the Hebron massacre in February. One of the organizers of the camp, who did not want to be identified, said the youths were taken to recite psalms at Goldstein's grave, because "it is our custom to pray at the graves of the righteous. Just as we took the youths to Yishay's grave, and to the Makhpela Cave in Hebron, we also took them to Dr. Goldstein's grave. He, too, is righteous."

A number of Kakh leaders were jailed and the group was outlawed immediately after the massacre, as part of the government's crackdown on right-wing extremist groups.

Kakh activists, however, have continued to operate, although taking care to identify themselves as "former Kakh members" in an effort to side-step the ban on the group. Much of the violence that has accompanied some of the anti-government demonstrations recently has allegedly been initiated by Kakh activists.

Police have closed the group's offices in Jerusalem, but so far have not taken action against other group activity, such as the summer camp.

Police spokesman Eric Bar-Hen said the group may have violated laws by using a personally issued Uzi submachine gun for weapons training. He said the police would investigate.

In addition to learning how to "defend themselves against knife attacks and rock throwers," the youths received daily lessons in the ideology of Kakh founder Rabbi Me'ir Kahana, one of the organizers said.

Several leading activists who were not jailed, including Avishay Raviv and Natan Levi, organized the Qiryat 'Arba camp.

The youths, who organizers described as "future Kakh leaders," were between the ages of 12 and 18, with most of them from Jerusalem.

Rabin Urged To Call Election

TA2607125594 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 26 Jul 94 p 2

[Editorial: "Yitzhaq, Go For An Election"]

[Text] Yitzhaq Rabin, we are sure that two years ago, when you began your term as prime minister of the Israeli Government, you did not dream that within less than 24 months you would pull off so many miracles. You thought the issues would advance "at their own pace," as you put it. However, they pushed and raced forward. Within one year you shook hands twice with Arab leaders on the White House's lawn, and they recognized the State of Israel and undertook to make peace with it. You made 'Arafat and Husayn recognize Israel.

Nevertheless, your coalition is very weak and in danger. You are mad with SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim], YI'UD [Independent and Democratic Israel], Meretz, and your cabinet ministers. Give yourself a break, Yitzhaq. Go to an election now. The Israeli people will be grateful to you.

Rabin-Peres Relations Said at 'New Low'

TA2707111294 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 27 Jul 94 p 4

[Article by Daniyel Ben-Simon: "His Most Hurting Hour"]

[Text] Shim'on Peres' face allows his feelings to show. At his worst moments—and his share of such moments has perhaps been greater than any other Israeli leader—his face turns gloomy, and he assumes an agonized look. That is the Shim'on Peres we have seen on television over the past two days: lifeless, anemic, disconnected, suffering, and humiliated.

Yitzhaq Rabin has abused him with an unprecedented viciousness. His magnanimity, shown in his pretty speeches in Washington, has turned into rudeness whenever Peres was concerned.

The writing was on the wall at the beginning of last week, but Peres chose to ignore it instead of reading it and drawing the necessary conclusions. Rabin did not want Peres to accompany him and held up his reply until it was time to pack. Peres was aware of the prime minister's sentiment, but turned a blind eye to it and chose to go to Washington and attend the historic event. Peres believes he played a leading role in the making of the historic agreement with Jordan, and would not comply with Rabin's heartfelt wish.

Debates were held in Peres' bureau over whether or not he should go. Those in opposition warned that he might be so humiliated that he may be called persona non grata. Those who were in favor of the trip did not have to work hard. They had the impression that deep in his heart, Peres dreamed of the moment he could push himself into a historic picture with King Husayn.

In hindsight, those who were against it were proven right. On the plane to the United States, the prime minister ignored him as if he was not there. In the ceremonies, Peres stood in line with the other guests waiting for a handshake with the three leaders. Due to his fine manners and nobility, King Husayn mentioned Peres' contribution to the agreement with his country once in his speech. Rabin did not see it fit to mention Peres even once. Peres listened to the speeches and swallowed the repeated insults.

Peres did not need this trip. Even without it, he could preserve the unique status he has gained in both the Western and the Arab worlds. This status, however, did not help him much when he reported to Rabin's bureau

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and "begged" to join the trip. His despair at that moment left him unprotected from Rabin's jaws in Washington.

This is undoubtedly a new low in the relations of loathing between the two. At this stage of his life, Rabin no longer feels an urge or a need to play with or appease others. Over the past several days he showed his humiliating attitude toward Peres in an open and unleashed manner. This is a critical time in Peres' life. He will probably wait for the festivities to end before he goes to battle against his last enemy.

Exports, Trade Grow in May-June 1994

Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 26 Jul p 8

[Report by Jose Rosenfeld]

[Text] Rising exports and retail trade fueled economic activity in the past two months, as inflation flared up to 16 percent and unemployment, industrial production and tourism receipts fell, the Central Bureau of Statistics reported yesterday.

Exports, excluding diamonds, soared 30.2 percent during May and June. Industrial exports, which make up about a third of industrial production, jumped 24 percent, after rising 14 percent in the previous two months.

By contrast, merchandise imports edged down 0.6 percent following a similar drop in the preceding two months.

Consumer imports fell 4.6 percent after shooting up by 41.6 percent in March and April. Durable goods imports, including cars, furniture and major appliances, jumped 43 percent. Industrial machinery and equipment imports continued falling, registering a 29.8 percent drop in the past two months, after decreasing by 45.5 percent.

By contrast, industrial input imports—excluding fuel—grew a moderate 13.1 percent, after falling 1.8 percent. Cement sales—a good indicator of construction activity—fell 25.1 percent during the period of March through May.

Partial figures on public housing starts show an 86 percent drop during the same period. Industrial production decreased by 4 percent between March and May. Tourism, as measured by the number of tourist arrivals by air, continued dropping by 7.1 percent, after falling 21.3 percent in the previous two months.

Hotel stays dropped even more sharply by 40.2 percent, reflecting the impact of the Hebron massacre. Retail trade jumped 20.4 percent compared to a moderate rise of 3.3 percent in the previous two months. Food sales, which make up a significant portion of retail trade, increased only 3 percent, after rising 18 percent.

Work hours of Israeli employees and workers from the territories increased by 5 percent during the first quarter of the year. Unemployment fell to 7.7 percent between March and May compared to 8.1 percent in February through April.

The currency basket rose 22 percent against the shekel in May and June, while the dollar gained a more moderate 11 percent.

According to Treasury Economic adviser Tzipi Gal-Yam's monthly survey that was published yesterday, the economy maintained during the second quarter of the year the high level of activity that was reached in the first quarter.

Although the closure of the territories in March caused a temporary slowdown, primarily in construction, it had a much smaller impact on the economy than the closure last year.

Gal-Yam attributes this to the reduced dependence on labor from the territories when the closure was imposed this year. At the time of last year's closure, 115,000 workers from the territories were employed in Israel, while only 80,000 were working before this year's closure.

In addition, the import of foreign workers further moderated the closure's impact. Despite the dramatic stock market losses, private consumption took off. Gal-Yam said the quantitative impact of stock market developments on the economy has been very limited. Apparently, however, the generous wage hikes in the public sector were responsible for the significant rise in private consumption.

Gal-Yam expects that private consumption and imports will moderate during the second half of the year. The Consumer Price Index increased faster than the Treasury expected during the second quarter. Although housing prices continued rising ahead of the rest of the index, Gal-Yam said housing prices have been moderating since the beginning of the year. She blamed the sharp rise in prices during the second quarter to the high devaluation rate of the shekel and higher merchandise prices abroad.

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Muslim Brotherhood Controller Denies Policy Change

JN2607194894 Amman AL-SABIL in Arabic 26 Jul 94 p 8

[Interview with 'Abd-al-Majid Dhunaybat, the new controller general of the Muslim Brotherhood, by Yasir Abu-Hilalah; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [Abu-Hilalah] When a change takes place within parties and groups of the Third World, it usually occurs amid clamor and division. How did such a calm change take place in the Muslim Brotherhood although some people had wagered on the Brotherhood's division?

[Dhunaybat] God be praised, we are an Islamic group that applies the rules and bases of Islam. We also have by-laws and regulations which govern our work as part of our organizational frameworks. Among the basic rules and constant principles in our mission is that it resorts to shura [consultations]. Any change in the leadership is governed by the organizational bases and frameworks which stem from the religious rules.

Our situation cannot be compared to the situation of others. Thus, the new leadership was elected through both the spirit of shura and the sincere Islamic fraternity as part of the Brotherhood's institutional work. We tell those who wager on the Brotherhood's position and reaction to the change that our group, God be praised, is in good shape, that our situation is sound, and that they will lose their wager today and tomorrow exactly as they lost it yesterday. [passage omitted]

[Abu-Hilalah] Does changing the controller general mean a change in the Muslim Brotherhood's policies, especially in this particular phase?

[Dhunaybat] As I have said, our work is disciplined and institutionalized and is governed by religion and by the public interest in religion. Our work is also governed by approved organizational frameworks and by-laws, by well-established traditions in missionary work, and by strategic visions emanating from much contemplation, consideration, and accommodation of the Islamic movements' experience in various countries and phases, taking into account the realities of the situation.

Thus, these strategies and policies do not change if there is a change in persons occupying basic posts.

[Abu-Hilalah] Some people wager that the Brotherhood will be divided following the change that took place.

[Dhunaybat] This change took place in a splendid way and through positions that expressed the sublime character of the missionaries and their true affiliation. This has been a losing wager, and it will continue to be so, God willing.

[Abu-Hilalah] People still tell the story of the hawks and the doves. What happened to this story following the recent changes?

[Dhunaybat] People can make whatever descriptions they wish and they can employ whatever classifications they want, such as hawks, doves, or other terms. We do not deny that there are diversified personal interpretations and opinions in our group, which take place within specific frameworks. However, we assert that our ranks are unified, that each of us made a pledge to God, and that we are loyal to this mission and its leadership. This diversity in personal interpretations and opinions enriches our march, so the generations of this mission will be raised on respect for this diversity as part of the commitment to the unity of both leadership and decisionmaking. [passage omitted]

Muslim Brotherhood Denounces Washington Meeting

JN2607171194 Amman AL-SABIL in Arabic 26 Jul 94 p 3

[Text] Amman, AL-SABIL—The Muslim Brotherhood has issued a statement denouncing the continued negotiations with the enemy and the Washington meeting. The statement asserted that the Zionist enemy is continuing with its strategic objective of penetrating the region and bolstering its usurpation of land and holy sites. The enemy has confirmed this through reconciliation agreements with the Arab parties and meetings with Arab leaders in a fait accompli normalization. Therefore, it was painful to see the king of the country meeting the head of the Zionist entity's government and shaking the hands that are stained with the blood of women and children in Jerusalem and Palestine and in the villages and cities of northern, central, and valley of Jordan. Those hands have destroyed holy places, property, and broken the bones of children.

The statement added that the enemy is achieving its objectives without offering anything in return. Normalization is in full swing on all levels in the hope of achieving some promises of prosperity and resolving the problems of the economy, water, and others.

The statement also noted that what beloved Egypt has gained from the Camp David accords and the reconciliation and normalization with the enemy is clear to everybody. Social disintegration, internal crises, economic collapse, poverty, spread of malignant diseases, and other such things are all that has been achieved, and will be achieved, by the countries that pursue negotiations and reconciliation with the enemy, according to enemy plans.

The statement said the Muslim Brotherhood rejects the principle of reconciliation and meeting with the enemy, stemming from the constant principles of the Islamic faith and law and the long experience in dealing with this enemy and out of consideration for the nation's interests and future.

These negotiations came at a difficult stage during which the Arab nation in general, the Islamic nation in particular, is suffering a state of weakness, lack of political and

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economic weight, disintegration, divisions, and infighting. The enemy, on the other hand, is strong and has unlimited world support. This enables the enemy to win the negotiations in full and achieve its present and long-term objectives in achieving its Zionist scheme and controlling the entire region.

The nation has experienced such a stage in its history, and overcame it by adhering to God's religion and to unity, educating generations to adhere to the Islamic faith and enjoy patience and pride, and maintaining a spirit of jihad, resistance, and rejecting all forms of submission and capitulation.

The statement appealed to the masses of mobilization and steadfastness and all vibrant forces in the nation to stand up to this reconciliation and its consequences and to boycott the enemy in all spheres and boycott institutions and bodies that deal with it. And incline not to those who do wrong, or the Fire will seize you; and ye have no protectors other than God, nor shall ye be helped. [Koranic verse]

Opposition on 'Negative Consequences' of Declaration

JN2707082394 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 27 Jul 94, pp 1, 6

[Text] Amman (PETRA)—His Majesty King Husayn's visit to the United States and his efforts to establish a just, comprehensive and durable peace in the region and ensure Jordan's sovereignty over its territories and water received wide public support.

Several deputies hailed the King's visit as an important step to push the peace process in the region.

Deputy 'Abd-al-Hafiz al-Shakhanibah said the King's decision to go to the United States was the culmination of the Jordanian leadership's quest for achieving a just, lasting and comprehensive peace in the region, and not a temporary truce.

Dr. al-Shakhanibah voiced hope that the King's efforts will not only lead to restoration of the occupied Jordanian territories and regaining Jordan's water rights, but also to finding solutions to the major problem, the problem of the refugees and displaced persons, and enabling them to go back to their homeland and exercise their legitimate rights.

Dr. al-Shakhanbah expressed hope that the meeting the King held with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin will culminate in a peace treaty acceptable to all Arab parties concerned, including the Palestinians.

He voiced hope that the United States and Europe will arrange to ensure the forgiveness of a great part of Jordan's foreign debt.

Deputy Samih al-Farah described the Washington summit as a turning point in the Arab-Israeli conflict and voiced hope that it will result in economic gains for Jordan including debt forgiveness and foreign aid and investments in Jordan.

Mr. al-Farah said the restoration of Jordan's territory and its water was an important factor in ensuring regional stability. He said a peace treaty between Jordan and Israel is set to end the state of war and save much of Jordan's resources, which will then be channelled to development.

Deputy Taha al-Habahibah said Jordan was seeking the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolutions.

He added that Jordan did not act unilaterally when it decided to attend the peace talks.

"What Jordan is doing now is its natural right," he said. He added that the Jordanian leadership reflects the hopes and aspirations of the Jordanian people.

Deputy Nazih 'Ammarin said the decisive and important political decision on Jordan's security and existence should be taken in isolation of passions and wishes.

"The decision should arise from the country's higher interest. We should not ask Jordan to do what is beyond its powers and capacities," he said. He described the King's initiative as wise and courageous.

Deputy Nadir al-Zuhayrat said Jordan's decision to hold talks with Israel was not a Jordanian decision only, but was backed by Arab consensus. Jordan's peace drive is meant to restore Jordanian water and territorial rights and to demarcate the Jordanian boundaries.

Member of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Sa'ud al-'Adwan blessed the King's step describing it as "daring and courageous" and wished King Husayn every success in his efforts and continuous endeavours to achieve what he aspired for to serve his own people and the Arab Nation.

Al-'Ahd [Pledge] Party voiced total support for King Husayn's efforts to achieve a just, lasting and comprehensive peace in the Middle East and to fulfill Jordan's national aspirations and goals.

In a statement issued Monday al-'Ahd said Jordan had never been absent from the scene of events in the region, but has always been an active participant in the decision-making process.

Eight leftist and Islamic parties in addition to the Jordanian Arab Popular Committee for Confronting Concessions and Normalisation of Relations with Israel expressed dissatifaction with the agreements reached between Jordan and Israel saying that this will have negative consequences on Jordan's security and stability.

In a statement issued Tuesday, they said the agreements will have "negative consequences on our security and stability in Jordan and that of the entire Arab and Muslim worlds."

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The statement said the government's decisions were not democratic "since they were taken without referring to the Jordanian people nor to their representatives in Parliament nor to the political parties."

The statement said the Washington Declaration ends the state of war between Jordan and Israel at a time when Israel is still "occupying our land and stealing our water.

"Moreover, the declaration gave Israel new concessions, including security coordination, joint economic projects and a share of Jordanian waters, including the Yarmuk River water. It also ignored the refugee problems," the statement said.

It added that Jordan had accepted Israeli claims to religious sovereignty of the holy places, abandoned national and Islamic sovereignty over these places, and ignored Palestinian sovereignty.

"Jordan's official acceptance of all this is tantamount to a recognition of the total Israeli sovereignty on it."

The statement also said that Jordan's "acceptance to becoming a party to the American-Zionist axis without any consideration for inter-Arab relations and regardless of the concessions on the relationship between the government and people of Jordan and the impact on Jordan's relations with the neighbouring Arab countries will have negative consequences on Jordan's security and stability and that of the Arab and Islamic nations."

It was signed by the Jordan Arab Ba'th Socialist Party, the National Action Front Party, the Jordan Democratic People's Party, the Jordan Communist Party, the Islamic Action Front Party, the Jordan Democratic Socialist Party, the Jordan Democratic Popular Unity Party, the Jordan Arab Democratic Party and the Jordanian Arab Popular Committee for Confronting Concessions and Normalization of Relations with Israel.

The Islamic Action Front's al-Zarqa' chapter will stage a sit-in Wednesday at the party's headquarters along al-Zarqa'-Amman highway.

At the popular level a number of mayors, university professors, government officials, refugee notables, academics, and heads of unions voiced their support for the King's initiative and said the Washington Declaration will contribute to achieving the long-sought just, comprehensive and lasting peace that Jordan has been advocating, in line with international legitimacy.

Declaration Seen as 'Beginning of Transformation'

JN2707090794 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 27 Jul 94, pp 1, 6

[Report by George Hawatmeh from Washington; date not given]

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn's series of meetings over the past two days with U.S. President Bill Clinton and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, coupled with his historic address to a joint session of Congress, are the beginning of a transformation process in Jordan's modern history which could bring with it tremendous political and economic benefits to this country and its people.

The ending of the state of war with Israel, and the political circumstances in which this has been accomplished, indicate that the "mentality of survival" which has governed Jordanian thinking for many decades has come to a close, heralding in the process a new era of progressive dynamics at home and positive interaction with the rest of the world.

There are, of course, elements of risk involved in what the King aptly called, in his speech to the Congress yesterday, the state of progression from a state of war to peace. But it is exactly because Jordan is taking such risks that the United States, at least, is willing and ready "to walk the final miles" with us, as President Clinton stated in his south lawn speech on Monday.

Jordanian leaders who are accompanying His Majesty on this trip are both downsizing and prepared to take the risks, for the "time has come anyway" to put Jordan "back on the map" and ensure for its people their rights, whether in territory, water, security, development or progress. [sentence as published]

"What we are doing here is trying to put Jordanian interests above everything else," says Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, "Nobody else will do it for us otherwise." He adds, stressing that Jordan at the same time was neither compromising Arab interests nor undermining the cause of Arab nationalism.

Although it appears that officials have not yet begun articulating an offensive in information policy to match the political initiatives of recent days, preferring instead to remain more on the defensive side, it is well understood by the leadership generally that what the King has decided to achieve here in the U.S. capital will be pursued in vigour and determination on all state levels.

The view, held by some Jordanians, that developments were taking place at too fast a pace, is taken well into consideration by the leadership. The difference in pace, however, has not been a high priority issue compared to the immediate and ultimate objectives that have been set for the Washington round of historic events.

Take, for instance, the question of whether Jordan had to go beyond ending the state of belligerency with Israel to declare the end of the state of war, which entail different legal interpretations, as far as experts are concerned. The outstanding political consideration here was the American factor, namely whether the U.S. Administration and Congress would have not liked Jordan to go beyond the first into the second in order to cut a final deal on scrapping the Kingdom's $750m debt and supplying the armed forces with new weapons.

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When it became apparent to His Majesty that the difference between the two states paled in comparison to the political and economic advantages of doing the latter, he did not hesitate to declare the end of the state of war with Israel. The King did in fact say in his speech on the south lawn, where the signing of the Washington Declaration took place Monday, that the English term for "belligerency" existed in neither Arab nor Hebrew, indicating that a difference therefore hardly existed to warrant trouble over the issue. And it was that particular sentence, indeed, that saw him receiving two standing ovations at the White House and Capital Hill, signalling the inevitability of all-around agreement by the Jordanians, Americans and Israelis.

Warren Christopher, the usually conservative and tight-lipped U.S. Secretary of State, sounded so elated and upbeat about the event that he told a television interviewer that Jordan's economy would witness a transformation process in the next couple of years. President Clinton had earlier called the King a "hero," who deserved total support from the American people.

On the political level, Jordan has achieved not only a breakthrough in asserting its indispensable role in the emerging regional order, whether in terms of Amman's relationship with Saudi Arabia (Prince Bandar, the Saudi ambassador, absented himself from Washington over the past few days) or in terms of renewing the Kingdom's traditionally close ties with the U.S.. [sentence as published]

Jordan did also make gains that would see Jordanians through the difficult economic period that started in the early eighties, depended in the second half of that decade and continued during the Gulf crisis and war.

Even in the Washington Declaration with Israel, the Jordanians made sure that the agreements reached would work to this country's benefits, preserving the holy Islamic place in Jerusalem being the best example there. Besides, there are elements in the agreements that would enable Jordan to maintain and strengthen its geo-political interests in the region as a whole.

Senior Jordanian officials insist that no undue concessions were made to the Israelis through signing the Washington Declaration. Israel was basically after ending its isolation in the region, and Jordan did not do any more than the Palestinians did on Sept. 13 last year or what the Syrians would do (upon reaching an agreement on the Golan Heights) towards that goal. Besides, a senior official asks, what is so new about ending the state of war (with the Jewish state).

"Israel has finally agreed to accept Jordan's sovereignty and territorial integrity, having had posed a big threat to them for so long before. Who is winning there then? Who had the greater military capability to threaten the other before, If I may ask."

The King, in his joint conference with President Clinton and Mr. Rabin after addressing Congress on Tuesday, said Jordan was alerted to the possibility of terrorist attacks like those waged in London yesterday and in Argentina last week.

"But in the final analysis," said a senior Jordanian official, "the threat of violence cannot stop a country, especially like ours, from seizing the right moment and moving forward towards a better and more secure future."

Editorial Says Declaration Makes Country Stronger

JN2707072994 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 27 Jul 94, p 6

[Editorial: "A Much Stronger Jordan"]

[Text] Following the proclamation of the end of the state of war between Jordan and Israel, the Kingdom emerges much stronger and more confident than before. In a region that has seen many wars in the past 40 years, not only between the Arabs and Israel but also among Arabs themselves, a Jordan in peace with its most powerful neighbour is certainly stronger than one at war with it.

During the past decade, Jordan saw the edifice of a confident post-1970 Arab order crumble down. The fall started with Israel's invasion of Lebanon in 1982 and the driving of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) out of that country. The fall of oil prices came next. Then came Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and the Gulf war that led to a schism still unhealed in Arab ranks. In the process, Jordan lost Iraq as a formidable trade partner, the Gulf states as a financial aid source, and the U.S. as a long time friend and ally.

And in 1993, Jordan was taken by surprise by the deal made between the PLO and Israel in Oslo.

Jordan found itself in the first days of 1994 left with a few friends and more enemies.

The threats were coming from all directions: The American blockade of al-'Aqabah, Saudi estrangement, lack of Arab solidarity, scarcity of funds, obsolete army equipment and Israeli pressure. And thus Jordan had to move and attempt to quell all the threats.

Monday's Washington Declaration is not an instant panacea. It surely shattered the aspirations of those who hoped Jordan was bound to disintegrate and were positioning themselves to reap the spoils. The Washington Declaration might not help heal the rift in the Arab World, but it certainly sends strong signals to many capitals in the region that Jordan is a viable state, a major player and a reliable partner in the emerging post-Cold War Middle East regional order.

With its most volatile borders recognised and its role in the peace process reasserted, Jordan hopes that its decades-old quest for peace and its moderate and tolerant posture will at last bring peace and prosperity to its people and all the peoples of the region.

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Al-'Anani on Washington Declaration, Debts

JN2607141494 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 26 Jul pp 1, 25

[Text] Washington—Information Minister Jawad al-'Anani has said that the Jordanian and Israeli sides have agreed through the Washington Declaration to work within the peace process to take steps on the level of the boycott issue, and not to terminate it. Al-'Anani was referring to President Clinton's speech in which he said that Jordan has agreed to terminate the boycott.

At a news conference, the information minister said what was agreed in the Washington Declaration yesterday is the result of what was agreed in the Wadi al-'Arabah and Dead Sea negotiations—a confirmation of the topics of the Jordanian-Israel working agenda.

On Jerusalem, Dr. al-'Anani said that Jordan's role toward the Muslim holy shrines was confirmed in the Washington Declaration and it has become clear that Jordan is the Muslim guardian of the Muslim holy shrines.

Dr. al-'Anani added that the Washington Declaration did not mention the issue of the displaced and refugees, and that Jordan reiterates its commitment to a just solution in accordance with the international law on refugees and displaced people and their rights that are stipulated in Resolutions 242 and 338.

Concerning our rights to the al-Yarmuk and Jordan River water, Dr. al-'Anani said that Jordan has rejected Israel's attempt to involve the Syrian and Palestinian dimensions in the negotiations on water.

Dr. al-'Anani added that the Israeli side asked Jordan to give up its share of the Jordan River water, saying it is ready to supply it with water that will be equal to its share of the Jordan River water. Dr. al-Anani said: Jordan rejected this because it is eager to safeguard, first and foremost, its rights to water, and be able to establish projects on the river.

On border demarcation, Dr. al-'Anani said that Jordan is eager to demarcate its borders with all parties concerned, and that Jordan insists on demarcating its border with Israel now so that this will be an incentive for a Syrian and Palestinian border demarcation. Dr. al-'Anani said that Jordan succeeded in wresting an Israeli agreement to demarcate its borders.

Dr. al-'Anani said that any progress in the negotiations on the Jordanian-Israeli track basically seeks to serve the other tracks, as it will be an incentive for progress on the other tracks for the attainment of peace because there is a close link among all the tracks.

Regarding Jordan's debts to the United States, Dr al-'Anani said that the United States intends to make a decision to cancel $750 million in addition to $200 million as guarantees which are not part of the official debts, and which will be discussed later.

On this level, an authoritative source said that the United States has promised to work to persuade European and other countries also to cancel some of Jordan's debts.

Dr. al-'Anani said that what was mentioned in the Washington Declaration regarding Jordan's role in safeguarding Islamic shrines in Jerusalem is a great gain and achievement for Jordan.

Paper Sees Country Facing Multiple Pressures

MM2607140094 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 26 Jul 94 p 15

[Article by Joseph Samahah: "Jordan Between Pressure and...Pressure!"]

[Text] A qualitative shift has occurred in relations between Jordan and Israel, and King Husayn has publicly consolidated secret incidents known for decades. The striking thing is Amman officials' persistence in interpreting the step as the only response available due to the pressures exerted on the Kingdom by "everyone." According to this interpretation, the Washington meeting is compulsory, not voluntary—which is true to a large extent, but with an unavoidable redress.

There are pressures and pressures. The Arab siege of Jordan ranges from reprisal and the confusion between obedience and coordination to...threatening the entity. It is based on exploiting the fragility of the present Jordanian status so as to turn concern into alarm. The Kingdom is at a historic crossroads whose components are the results of the Gulf war, demographic balance, the plans to restructure the Arab east, the suffocating economic crisis, fundamentalism, and...the attempt to harm the historic function of the entity itself.

The U.S.-Israeli pressure is different. It is based on kindling these Jordanian concerns in order to offer a way out taking account of Amman's sensitivities: So the border and water issues are addressed, an agreement is reached to postpone "the peace treaty," economic aid is offered in the form of writing off debts or joint enterprises, and so on. And when the Kingdom has been made to feel this political-economic security, an announcement is made about the intention to rearm Jordan in order to confront the dangers coming from other directions!

It is rational, modern, contemporary, political pressure that leaves an escape route and wants to make a gain. It is an example of how power centers establish their attraction: They offer little in order to get a lot under a scenario that protects everyone's dignity and the illusion of equality. This leads us to say that King Husayn faced two kinds of pressures. The first is free of charge, with which no bargaining can be conducted because it demands everything. And Jordan tried to produce a settlement but failed. As for the second, it is well studied and accompanied by a settlement offer.

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Choosing between the call to abolishing oneself or reformulate one's position, the Jordanian monarch opted for the second solution, on the grounds that it is practically the only one available on the scene. And this option could move in a direction different from what the Arabs should aspire to. But it is a true copy of their current practices and aspirations.

Matters will not stop at this point. In a few days Tel Aviv will begin to exploit the new gain in two directions: The first—which is retroactive—concerns the Palestinians and is aimed at improving the terms, whether with regard to the implementation of the "declaration of principles" or preparations for the negotiations on the final status. And the features of a Palestinian-Jordanian confrontation over Jerusalem are already taking shape. It could turn into a tender in which the party offering the "best" bid, that is the worst, would win. The second direction concerns the future, that is negotiation with Syria. Israel would here show limitless maneuvering ability that begins with the talk about tripartite economic relations with Jordan and the Palestinian entity and does not end with the leakages about dialogue with Iraq and the possibility of extending a pipeline from Tel Aviv to Baghdad via Amman with a view to isolating Damascus.

It seems that that possibility cannot now be stopped or prevented. So nothing is left except the almost desperate "prediction" that it is still possible to avoid the worst. Perhaps the only benefit of this "prediction" is the possession of criteria to judge future Arab policies, including those which exerted pressure on Jordan until they succeeded in turning it into a tool for exerting pressure on themselves.

AL-DUSTUR Urges Israel To Change Image

JN2607122494 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 26 Jul 94 pp 1, 27

[Editorial: "The Washington Declaration"]

[Text] The Washington Declaration, signed yesterday, has ushered in a new era in the Middle East. New relations will prevail on new foundations. Unfamiliar developments will be witnessed for the first time in this region. This requires a new language and new ways of thinking to deal with the new facts of this stage.

Yesterday, the state of war between Jordan and Israel came to an end. We know that wars always come to an end, no matter how long they continue. The door was opened yesterday to what we can call official peace. We know that such peace is not the peace of peoples, who must be convinced and shown how it is in their interest. They should also demonstrate a willingness to adhere to it and defend it.

Hence, Israel's responsibility. The ball is now in Israel's court. Israel should now erase from the minds of the people its historical image and abandon its militarism, arrogance, and hegemony. It should reintroduce itself to us as a neighbor that does not make dire threats against us.

To transform the official peace into a peace of peoples, depends on concrete actions, and not mere intentions, on the part of Israel. These actions could be represented in a series of practical steps, such as full acknowledgement of Jordan's border and water rights, halting settlement activity, accepting the return of the displaced, recognizing the national legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, and disgorging the occupied Arab territories in the Golan Heights and southern Lebanon.

Above all, Israel, while standing with us at the threshold of a new era in the Middle East, must realize that Jerusalem is larger than the holy places it houses and that its place in Arab and Islamic hearts is greater than the picture Israel is trying to draw at this stage. Israel must also realize the serious consequences that could affect the future of the peace process if it tries to reduce Jerusalem into a question of a mosque or church.

The Washington Declaration holds out the promise of a just and comprehensive peace. It outlines prospects for promoting relations of good-neighborliness and cooperation. This would release more energies for construction and development and save more resources. We have no doubt that the majority of our people look forward to achieving this objective, just like all other nations. This makes us rally more closely around King Husayn's leadership. It also makes us more confident in his courage and wisdom and in a more secure and prosperous future.

Daily Warns on 'Over Enthusiasm,' 'Pessimism'

JN2607121094 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 26 Jul 94 p 1

[Editorial: "A Day for Hope and Commitment"]

[Text] Yesterday's Washington summit between His Majesty King Husayn, the Israeli prime minister, and the U.S. President, and the resulting Washington Declaration, are not the end of the road, but an opportunity for hope and commitment to start down a difficult and long road toward entrenching the kingdom's sovereignty and restoring its rights.

Yes, it was a summit that marked the shift from war to peace. It ended the state of no war and no peace, and put an end to the wait for the unknown. The summit replaced dialogue with weapons and trenches with peace talks at the negotiating tables. It entrenched dialogue and direct negotiations—bilateral and collective—as a peaceful means to resolve the conflict. But the rights were not returned to their owners and the peace treaty was not signed. The Washington summit is promising, but it is the beginning of the road of hope and commitment, and not the end.

Because of all of this, and because the kingdom's constants are firm, and because what has changed is only the

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conflict arena and its instruments, the time has not yet come for over enthusiasm to the extent of relaxation, or for pessimism to the extent of quarreling because the just, lasting, and comprehensive peace that the Washington Declaration mentioned can only be made and not granted. The making of peace and then protecting it require strength and the acquiring of all means of this strength by us.

Peace that enhances sovereignty, restores the rights, ends war and aggression, spreads stability, security, and peace, and realizes developments and prosperity has always been a deep-rooted Hashemite message for which His Majesty King Husayn and the kingdom have always struggled in war and peace and in the country and abroad, and with the sword, the pen, and the tongue. The decisive and promising Washington summit brought this message very close to fulfillment. This made us shoulder the responsibility of mobilizing all factors of strength to move on the road of hope and commitment until the end.

The kingdom has two strength factors; namely King Husayn's leadership, which has steered the Jordanian ship safely through wars and storms, and national unity. King Husayn has repeatedly said that he will be the enemy of anyone who encroaches on national unity. Today, in this day of hope, we are in great need of sticking to these two firm factors so that the peace ship reaches its aspired objectives.

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Al-Hirawi Criticizes Separate Peace Settlements

NC2607170794 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Text] In an interview with the BBC today, President Ilyas al-Hirawi affirmed that Lebanon will follow the peace process and the linkage between the Lebanese and Syrian tracks. He said Lebanon was eager to hold monthly meetings of foreign ministers of the cordon states after every round of bilateral negotiations in order to underline coordination among the Arab states. He said that no one country would conclude separate deals. He maintained that the pretext of settling debts does not justify deviation from Arab coordination which began after the Madrid Conference.

President al-Hirawi said: We were very eager to maintain Arab solidarity during the negotiations. We underlined our adherence to pan-Arabism. Regrettably, they [not further identified] went out the window when we came through the wide open pan-Arab door.

On the possibility of making progress on the Lebanese track without considering Syria, President al-Hirawi said: Lebanon has on hand UN Security Council Resolution 425 that calls for unconditional Israeli withdrawal from Lebanese territory. The resolution does not call for the signing of a peace treaty. We want an Israeli commitment to withdraw and assurances regarding implementation. In return, this will obligate us to safeguard security and calm along internationally recognized borders.

Claims Jordan 'Breaking Ranks'

NC2607212194 Paris AFP in English 2007 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Text] Beirut, July 26 (AFP)—Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi indirectly criticized Jordan on Tuesday for signing a deal with Israel, accusing it of breaking ranks with Arab partners in the Middle East peace process.

A state's debts are no reason to halt Arab coordination, al-Hirawi told BBC radio in an interview, extracts of which were published by the Lebanese news agency ANI.

But the president declined to comment directly on the declaration signed Monday in Washington by King Husayn of Jordan and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin formally ending the 46-year state of war between their countries.

Washington, as chief sponsor of the Middle East peace process, is now expected to scrap most if not all of Jordan's debt to the United States.

Al-Hirawi reiterated an offer to deploy 25,000 soldiers in southern Lebanon and halt operations by the anti-Israeli resistance if Israel withdrew from its "security zone" in the south. But Beirut would not sign a peace treaty with Israel before Syria, a major power-broker in Lebanon.

The president said Lebanon had paid a high price, in lives and the country's development, when a deal was struck with Israel in May 1983, only to be abrogated under fierce opposition.

Al-Hariri Sees No Peace Without Syria

NC2607180494 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Interview with Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri by unidentified correspondents following his visit to Maronite Patriarch Nasrallah Sfayr in al-Diman on 26 July—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Al-Hariri] You are aware of my friendship with his beatitude the patriarch. Today we discussed general issues, particularly the regional situation. Our views are identical. The stage our country is passing through demands that all our efforts should be in harmony in order to save Lebanon at this delicate stage involving the entire region. His beatitude the patriarch fully appreciates this and displayed a high sense of responsibility. I was pleased and satisfied with this meeting.

[Correspondent] Mr. Prime Minister, is this visit connected with a government reshuffle?

[Al-Hariri] No, no, absolutely not. We did not discuss that subject, and in fact it was not on the agenda.

[Correspondent] In the light of the current developments, how do you view the future of the government and the Lebanese situation in general?

[Al-Hariri] The situation of the government is firm and solid, and there are no plans for a reshuffle or change. As for Lebanon's future, as you know, the region is passing through a very sensitive stage. I spoke about this with his beatitude the patriarch.

[Correspondent] What is the government's view of the peace plan, particularly in the light of what happened yesterday between Jordan and Israel? Are there any developments regarding a peace plan between Lebanon and Israel?

[Al-Hariri] You know that we insist on the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 425, which calls for the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from the south. The government's position on this matter has not changed. U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher visited Damascus and discussed the Golan issue. They also discussed—as our Syrian brothers have informed us—the issue of southern Lebanon. The Lebanese and the Syrian tracks are moving together. The Syrians will not conclude a separate agreement with Israel nor we will conclude a separate agreement. We are moving together. No new developments have taken place in this area.

[Correspondent] Did you discuss this issue with his beatitude the patriarch?

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[Al-Hariri] Yes, we did.

[Correspondent] What are his views?

[Al-Hariri] His views and ours are identical.

[Correspondent] [Words indistinct] the progress of the peace process?

[Al-Hariri] The ball is in the Israeli court, not in ours or the Syrians. Our demands and those of the Syrians are very clear: withdrawal from the Golan and from southern Lebanon. This is a fundamental condition. Other issues follow from this and do not precede it.

[Correspondent] Christopher spoke about specific signs after...

[Al-Hariri, interrupting] Nothing specific. Israel must make a basic decision that, in our view, it has not made yet; that is, how it will face the future in this area. If it wants to exist as the dominating state, this means things will be difficult. If it wants to live in peace, I think that the people of the area want peace.

[Correspondent] If Syria and Lebanon maintain their positions and all the other Arab states go ahead with peace, is there anything that would lead...

[Al-Hariri, interrupting] My dear, there can be no peace in the area without Syria and Lebanon. This is [words indistinct]. [passage omitted]

Dallul Sees No Curbing of Resistance in South

NC2707113894 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 27 Jul 94

[Text] National Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul stated that Lebanon will not curb resistance activity in south Lebanon, but promised to stop operations against Israel after it withdraws from the area.

In an interview with REUTER, Dallul said: We are not policemen protecting the occupier. It is our duty to confront this occupier and resist because it commits aggression against our land, people, and sovereignty. We demand our right to end this occupation by implementing UN Security Council Resolution 425 adopted in 1978. This resolution calls for Israel's withdrawal to Lebanon's international border. He added: After Israeli occupation ends, there will be no weapons in the south except those of legitimate Lebanese forces. No operations will be launched across Lebanese territory. He said: This is what we promise now and have promised. We will accept nothing less.

Israeli Forces Reportedly on 'Maximum Alert'

NC2707054194 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 27 Jul 94

[Text] No sooner had the Jordanian-Israeli meeting between King Husayn and Yitzhaq Rabin ended than Israel issued threats against Lebanon. Observers fear that these threats could turn into large-scale attacks, especially as reports from the south this morning indicate that Israel has placed its forces on maximum alert and sent additional reinforcements to the occupied zone.

Lebanon is trying to lighten the prevailing atmosphere following the Israeli-Jordanian meeting using intensive contacts at home to fortify its domestic front and other contacts with Syria to increase coordination to confront the coming phase. Lebanon is also acting diplomatically to prevent any new Israeli aggression on its territory.

'Guerrillas' Fire 12 Katyushas at Israeli Posts

NC2707094794 Paris AFP in English 0910 GMT 27 Jul 94

[Text] Tyre, Lebanon, July 27 (AFP)—Guerrillas fired 12 Katyusha rockets during the night at Israeli army positions in south Lebanon, security sources said Wednesday.

The rockets, fired in salvos of four, landed near army positions around Marwahin in the "security zone" which Israel has controlled with its proxy South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia since 1985, the sources said. It was not clear if there were any casualties.

Two Israeli helicopters later fired flares as they circled over the villages of Kafr and Yatar south of the port city of Tyre, while six 155 mm mortar shells crashed on the outskirts of Yatar without causing any casualties. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the rocket attack.

The fighting came after Israel warned on Tuesday it would take "painful" reprisals against Iranian-backed Hizballah guerrillas following attacks on Monday that left an Israeli soldier dead and 13 others wounded. A Hizballah guerrilla was also killed in the attacks and five Lebanese civilians were hurt.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin accused Iran of controlling Hizballah and charged that it was getting weapons from Tehran via Damascus. Rabin urged Syria to limit Hizballah activities in Lebanon.

Israel and Hizballah have been on a war-footing since June 2 when Israeli warplanes killed 32 trainees in an attack on a Hizballah training camp in Lebanon's Syrian-controlled al-Biqa' Valley.

Buwayz Denies Ansarallah Group in Country

NC2607202194 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1900 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has stated that Lebanon condemns any attacks against civilians, regardless of where and how they are carried out. He denied the existence in Lebanon of the group Ansarallah, which claimed responsibility for bombing the Jewish center in Buenos Aires on 18 July.

The foreign minister's remarks were made to journalists this afternoon in commenting on the meeting that took

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place between the Lebanese ambassador to Argentina and Argentine Foreign Ministry officials. Buwayz said that the ambassador was summoned by the Argentine Foreign Ministry in connection with a news agency report that Ansarallah was responsible for the Buenos Aires bombing.

Minister Buwayz said that there can be no cooperation with Argentine authorities until they send a judicial file containing evidence. He said: We are not interested in the statement in itself, which was later denied.

Claims 'No Information' on Group

NC2707102494 Paris AFP in English 0956 GMT 27 Jul 94

[Text] Beirut, July 27 (AFP)—Lebanon has said it has no information about a Muslim fundamentalist group implicated by Argentina in the July 18 bomb attack on a Jewish charity in Buenos Aires which killed 95 people.

"Lebanon has no information whatsoever about the implication of a Lebanese group" in the bombing, Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz told AFP late Tuesday.

He said the Argentine Foreign Ministry summoned Lebanon's ambassador in Buenos Aires, Riyad al-Qantar, and asked him for Beirut's cooperation to find those behind the bombing.

The Argentine Foreign Ministry told al-Qantar they had information indicating that the Muslim fundamentalist group Ansarallah (Followers of God) was a branch of the Iranian-backed Hizballah group, which spearheads anti-Israeli attacks in south Lebanon.

Last week Argentine President Carlos Menem said Ansarallah had issued a statement in Sidon, Lebanon, claiming responsibility for the bombing in Buenos Aires. The statement, issued late Friday, mentioned Monday's bombing as well as an attack Tuesday on a Panamanian commuter plane that killed 21 people, including 12 leading Jewish businessmen. But it did not directly claim responsibility for the two attacks.

"We do not consider this statement which was carried by an international news agency as serious proof, namely because it has been denied," Buwayz said. "Any legal cooperation must be based on concrete documents and specific proof," he added.

Officials at the Lebanese Foreign ministry stressed that the Argentine Government had no tangible proof implicating Ansarallah to the Buenos Aires bombing. They also said Argentina's ambassador to Lebanon, Juan Angel Faraldo, had been recalled home for consultations.

The name Ansarallah first emerged in 1987 in a series of statements to the press, but security sources here said the group currently did not have the logistical means to carry out such attacks.

Turkish Embassy Denies Passport Issued to Tuma

NC2707080894 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 25 Jul 94 p 13

[Text] We have received the following letter from the first secretary of the Turkish Embassy:

We were surprised to read the translation of a report published on page 7 of the 18 July issue of AL-SHIRA'. I would like to inform you that the report is groundless. The Turkish authorities issued no passport to Ghassan Tuma and did not order him to kill Armenians.

We hope you will publish this letter in your next issue. We also hope that you verify your reports in the future.

Birri Signs Bill on Radio, Television

NC2707054394 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 27 Jul 94

[Text] Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri yesterday signed several bills approved by the Chamber during its meetings on 13 and 14 July and immediately referred them to the Cabinet. These include a bill permitting radio and television media to resume transmitting news and political programs on a temporary basis and under certain controls.

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Sources: Israel Accepts Syria-Lebanon Linkage

MM2607113494 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 24 Jul 94 pp1, 4

[Reports by Salwa al-Ustuwani in Damascus, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Bureaus in Amman and Paris, Muhammad Sadiq in Washington, and agencies in 'occupied Jerusalem': "Israel Accepts Linkage Between Syrian and Lebanese Tracks in the Negotiations"]

[Excerpts] Informed political sources in Syria yesterday announced that Israel has accepted linkage between the Lebanese and Syrian tracks in the negotiations with it. They said that the success of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's talks with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad on the Syrian track made it possible to discuss the Lebanese-Israeli track. But then Israel again cast doubt on Christopher's talks and repeated its call for mediation by someone else capable of putting pressure on Syria. Christopher has returned to Washington to be close to the summit meeting between King Husayn of Jordan and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, the first public meeting between them, scheduled to take place tomorrow in President Clinton's office at the White House. [passage omitted]

In Damascus, Syria has viewed Christopher's talks with optimism and confirmed that he would return to the region to resume his mission. According to the same sources, when Syria rejected separate talks with Israel and insisted on linking the Syrian and Lebanese tracks, its request was granted. [passage omitted]

Al-Ahmar Criticizes Israeli Peace Policy

JN2607191994 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Excerpts] Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, met this evening with participants in a military training course at the Syrian Arab Cosmonaut Muhammad Faris Camp for university military training in Damascus. [passage omitted]

Comrade al-Ahmar spoke about Syria's strong internal front under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad. He also spoke about developments taking place in all walks of life. He reviewed the overall developments in the Arab and international arenas, particularly the peace process and its results. He stressed Syria's desire to establish a just and comprehensive peace, as well as its efforts to make this process successful based on the implementation of the resolutions of the international legitimacy and the land for peace principle.

Al-Ahmar explained that the peace process continues to stumble and not make progress because of Israel's refusal to implement the resolutions of international legitimacy and commit itself to the bases of the peace process.

Al-Ahmar added: It has become clear that Israel's policy is aimed at achieving unilateral deals and drawing Arab parties into partial solutions through which it can achieve what it wants at the expense of the Arab rights and territories. He also said that this policy will not lead to the desired peace and will not serve the peace process. Rather, he added, it will create more obstacles, will abort the peace process, and prevent it from achieving the goals for which it was launched, namely, achieving just and comprehensive peace based on UN resolutions, including Resolutions 242, 338, and 425 calling for Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories; and recognizing the legitimate rights of the Palestinian Arab people.

Al-Ahmar also stressed the need to confront Israel's intransigence and hostile expansionist policy by taking a firm Arab position, working for effective Arab solidarity, and using the Arabs' potentials to serve their just cause and defend their rights against challenges threatening their present and future. He stressed Syria's adherence under President Hafiz al-Asad to the policy of the Ba'th Party—a policy which constitutes a basis for Arab struggle to liberate the occupied territories, restore the usurped Arab rights, and build a new, unified, and developed Arab society.

Press Views al-Asad Statements to Reporters

JN2507122194 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline: "Syria Will Not Desist From the Peace Initiative," the newspaper AL-BA'TH says: Replying to questions posed by journalists following his talks with the Egyptian president yesterday, President Hafiz al-Asad stressed a host of facts regarding Syria's position on the peace process.

First among these is the fact that the position of Syria, which accepted the peace initiative, is an unequivocal position based on the peace initiative. These bases are clear and cannot be debated.

Second, according to AL-BA'TH, the endeavors which Syria made to achieve peace, as well as the U.S. and other efforts, have not yet yielded the required results due to Israel's procrastination, intransigence, and constant adherence to the policy of separate solutions and partial deals. This conflicts with both the peace initiative and the terms of reference of the Madrid formula.

The paper points out that third among these facts is emphasizing Syria's commitment to the peace process in accordance with the set bases. These bases can lead to a full, comprehensive, and durable peace. The paper notes that President al-Asad stressed that Syria will continue to adhere to the kind of peace which it perceives and wants. What Syria wants is not imaginary or impossible things. What Syria wants is rather something that is fully in line with the peace initiative which was unleashed some three years ago and which is still at square one due to both

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Israeli procrastination and the fact that the Rabin government evades the peace requisites which will safeguard regional security and stability.

Concluding its comment, AL-BA'TH believes that if new plans or concepts departing from the terms of reference of the Madrid formula emerge at times, they will mean that the solution will continue to revolve in a vicious circle. This is because the solution is available to everyone. All that is needed is for all sides to adhere to the solution.

In a comment today, the newspaper TISHRIN asserts that Syria responded to the U.S. initiative and helped convene the Madrid conference, according to specific bases. Foremost among which was implementing the Security Council resolutions in full, regaining all occupied Arab territories, and ending Israel's aggressive policies in the region.

The paper notes that none of these things has occurred despite the clamor about peace which Israel is evoking. The Israeli forces have not withdrawn from any occupied territory, and the repressive Israeli practices have intensified so much that every day people are killed or wounded by Israeli bullets. Moreover, the policy of aggression on Lebanon has not stopped.

TISHRIN adds: In view of what is taking place, it is natural for Syria to increase its adherence to the bases of the aspired just and comprehensive peace, to the resolutions of international legitimacy, to Syria's right to regain the entire Golan, and to Lebanon's right to regain the whole occupied southern Lebanon. It is also natural for Syria to refuse to be dragged outside both the framework of the Madrid conference and the Security Council resolutions or to respond to the Israeli proposals on secret talks and phased settlements whose only objective is to contain the principle of total withdrawal and circumvent the international law.

TISHRIN states that Syria responded to the objective of a just and comprehensive peace which requires full Israeli withdrawal and regaining the Arab rights. This is because Syria believes that only such peace can stand fast in the face of events and developments and can also regain the minimum level of Arab rights.

The paper adds: Syria believes that the peace process not only committed its parties but also the international community and the cosponsors in terms of implementing both the resolutions of international legitimacy and the international law, as well as ending all Israeli practices, including annexation, settlements, and altering the features of the occupied territories. This is because firm peace can only be based on the international law and on the resolutions, principles, and charters of international legitimacy.

Concluding, TISHRIN says: Syria, which has frequently and publicly announced its adherence to peace and also its definite pursuit of peace, will never deviate from the bases of the Madrid conference. It will continue to demand full Israeli withdrawal, regaining of the Arab rights, and ending all Israeli practices. This is because peace in the Middle East will remain liable to collapse if it is not just, comprehensive, and honorable and if it does not return rights to their owners and safeguard the Arab dignity.

In the "Opinion" column, the newspaper TISHRIN emphasizes the need for the Syrian and Lebanese tracks to be simultaneous. The paper asserts that the current simultaneity between these two tracks is based on a national and pan-Arab outlook of Syrian and Lebanese policy. The two tracks cannot be separated, and what is required is to promote the peace process on these two tracks based on both the resolutions of international legitimacy and Israel's full withdrawal from the Golan and southern Lebanon alike, so the regional situation will be stabilized and there will be appropriate circumstances to achieve a just and comprehensive peace for which everyone is aspiring.

Legislative Elections Set To Be Held 24 Aug

JN2407065994 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 24 Jul 94

["Text" of Decree No. 62, setting the date for the election of the People's Assembly members for the sixth legislative term of 1994, issued by President al-Asad on 23 July]

[Text] Decree No. 62,

The President, in implementation of the provisions of Article 58 of the Constitution, and on the basis of Legislative Decree No. 26 of 14 April 1973 and its amendments on the General Elections Law, decrees:

Article One: Wednesday, 17 Rabi' al-Awwal 1415 hegira, corresponding to 24 August 1994, shall be the date for electing the People's Assembly members for the sixth legislative term of 1994.

Article Two: The number of Assembly members allotted for the workers and peasants sector and the sector of other categories of people in each of the constituencies shall be as follows:

Constituency: Damascus Governorate
Number of constituency representatives: 29
Number allotted to the farmers and workers sector: 10
Number allotted to the sector of other categories of people: 19

Constituency: Governorate of Damascus Rural Area
Number of constituency representatives: 19
Number allotted to the farmers and workers sector: 10
Number allotted to the sector of other categories of people: 9

Constituency: City of Aleppo
Number of constituency representatives: 20
Number allotted to the farmers and workers sector: 7

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Number allotted to the sector of other categories of people: 13

Constituency: Districts of Aleppo Governorate
Number of constituency representatives: 32
Number allotted to the farmers and workers sector: 17
Number allotted to the sector of other categories of people: 15

Constituency: Hims Governorate
Number of constituency representatives: 23
Number allotted to the farmers and workers sector: 11
Number allotted to the sector of other categories of people: 12

Constituency: Hamah Governorate
Number of constituency representatives: 22
Number allotted to the farmers and workers sector: 13
Number allotted to the sector of other categories of people: 9

Constituency: Al-Ladhiqiyah Governorate
Number of constituency representatives: 17
Number allotted to the farmers and workers sector: 9
Number allotted to the sector of other categories of people: 8

Constituency: Idlib Governorate
Number of constituency representatives: 18
Number allotted to the farmers and workers sector: 12
Number allotted to the sector of other categories of people: 6

Constituency: Tartus Governorate
Number of constituency representatives: 13
Number allotted to the farmers and workers sector: 6
Number allotted to the sector of other categories of people: 7

Constituency: Al-Raqqah Governorate
Number of constituency representatives: 8
Number allotted to the farmers and workers sector: 4
Number allotted to the sector of other categories of people: 4

Constituency: Dayr al-Zawr Governorate
Number of constituency representatives: 14
Number allotted to the farmers and workers sector: 8
Number allotted to the sector of other categories of people: 6

Constituency: Al-Hasakah Governorate
Number of constituency representatives: 14
Number allotted to the farmers and workers sector: 8
Number allotted to the sector of other categories of people: 6

Constituency: Dar'a Governorate
Number of constituency representatives: 10
Number allotted to the farmers and workers sector: 5
Number allotted to the sector of other categories of people: 5

Constituency: Al-Suwayda' Governorate
Number of constituency representatives: 6
Number allotted to the farmers and workers sector: 4
Number allotted to the sector of other categories of people: 2

Constituency: Al-Qunaytirah Governorate
Number of constituency representatives: 5
Number allotted to the farmers and workers sector: 3
Number allotted to the sector of other categories of people: 2

Total: 250

Number allotted to the farmers and workers sector: 127

Number allotted to the sector of other categories of people: 123

Article Three: This decree shall be published in the official gazette. It goes into effect as of the date of its publication.

[Dated] Damascus, 15 Safar 1415 hegira, corresponding to 23 July 1994

[Signed] Hafiz al-Asad, president of the republic

Minister on People's Assembly Elections, Nominations

JN2407173094 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 24 Jul 94

[Text] Interior Minister Dr. Muhammad Harbah has announced that nominations for the People's Assembly's elections for the sixth legislative term will begin as of today, 24 July, and continue until close of business on Tuesday, 2 August.

In a statement to a correspondent of the Syrian Arab News Agency, SANA, the interior minister added that the next People's Assembly's elections for the sixth legislative term constitute a further step to promote democracy, and an advanced move to enhance the political, economic, and social edifice built by the glorious Corrective Movement led by His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, architect of modern Syria.

Dr. Harbah explained that all Syrians willing to shoulder public responsibility and deemed eligible in accordance with the provisions and regulations governing nomination enshrined in the Election Law can submit their nominations for these elections.

Concluding his statement, the interior minister stressed that the Ministry of Interior has adopted all the necessary measures and arrangements to render these elections a success, and to create a proper democratic climate that would enable brother citizens to exercise their nomination and voting rights in complete freedom.

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Bangladesh

India Seeks Benefits To Reduce Trade Imbalance

BK2607032894 Dhaka DAINIK INQILAB in Bengali 16 Jul 94 p 1

[By Mobaidur Rahman]

[Text] Several sensational reports have emerged from Indian Finance Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh's visit to Bangladesh. It has been learned that since 1972 secret talks have been held at the official level between Bangladesh and India on the issue of granting railway transit facilities. As India did not get any favorable response in this regard, it imposed a tough precondition during the rule of former President Ershad. India said that if Bangladesh wants to get the waters of the Farakka Barrage, then it should dig a link canal between the Ganges and the Brahmaputra Rivers in the northern region of Bangladesh. Bangladesh did not agree to this proposal. When the present government came to power in 1991, India imposed a new precondition, saying that if Bangladesh wants to get the waters of the Farakka, then it should give railway and shipping transit facilities to India through Chittagong Port and also through the land route of Bangladesh for the transportation of goods to the seven northeastern states of India. At the same time, the economy of the two countries should be made complementary. The Bangladesh Government did not respond to the Indian proposal for giving it transit facilities, taking into consideration the anti-Indian sentiments of the people of this country. The latest reports say that India has changed its bargaining strategy with Bangladesh. Last year, the Indian commerce minister, Pranab Mukherjee, and recently the finance minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, stated that if Bangladesh wants to reduce its huge trade imbalance with India, then it should grant transit facilities to India. This means that the Farakka water issue has now been sidetracked. Bangladesh will have to pay a heavy price for this. Granting transit facilities is the precondition for reducing the trade gap between the two countries.

An English daily in Dhaka in its 14 July issue reported that since the independence of Bangladesh in 1972, India has been exerting pressure on this country to grant it a railway transit route through its land. Since then India has been pressing for granting it railway transit facilities on the Radhikapur-Birul-Akhaura-Tripura routes. Due to strong opposition from the people, the former governments did not dare to accept the proposals made by India. In August 1991, India proposed to Bangladesh to permit it to operate a train of 60 cars capable of carrying 300,000 tons of goods daily to Agartala through the Bangladesh territory. Apart from the above-mentioned proposal, the Indian Railway Board, during its meeting with the Bangladesh Railway, made a proposal to construct railway tracks at India's expense between the Azampur railway station of Bangladesh and Lankamura railway station in Agartala of India. It may be mentioned that the distance of Birul from Agartala is 560 kilometers or 310 miles. The report further added that it will not be possible for the Bangladesh Railway to handle more than two trains daily, as the ferry service between Bahadurabad and Teesta Mukh Ghat is insufficient.

The interview with Indian Finance Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, which was published in the English-language newspaper DAILY STAR on 14 July actually revealed the designs of India against Bangladesh. In reply to a question, Singh said that Bangladesh can earn a huge amount of money in transit fees if Chittagong Port is allowed to function as the entry port for Tripura and the other northeastern states of India and also if India is allowed to take the short-cut routes through Bangladesh for the transportation of goods to its different states. He expressed the opinion that instead of taking remedial measures to overcome its trade imbalance, Bangladesh should open up all its transit routes. With a view to overcoming the trade imbalance, the Indian finance minister suggested that the transit routes can become the main source for earning revenue. Not only this, the Indian finance minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, has given so much importance to the issue of transit facilities that he said this would help in the economic and industrial development of the two countries.

In reply to a question, he said that if free trade links are set up between India and Bangladesh, it would not only boost the northeastern region of India but would also help in the establishment of industries in Bangladesh whose products could be marketed in India.

It has been learned from a reliable source that a corrupt group in the private sector of Bangladesh is working behind the scenes to realize their vested interests. They are working against the sovereignty of Bangladesh and are pleading for the government to accept the Indian proposal to provide them with the transit facilities, which are of strategic military importance. This lobby, which is active in Bangladesh to protect the interests of India, wears the garb of nationalist forces with a view to fooling the patriotic people of this country. It has been learned that if this lobby succeeds in securing for India the transit facilities over the land, sea, and rail routes, they would be rewarded with business opportunities and contracts worth several hundred crore taka and would also be given the opportunity to set up industrial units.

The issue of providing transit facilities and other economic benefits, which have been raised by Dr. Manmohan Singh, were earlier rejected by the 75 million people of Bangladesh during 1972 to 1975, as these actions would be contrary to the interests of the people of this country. Today, after 19 years they have again raised these discarded issues. Now, Singh is being supported by those vested interests of Bangladesh whose main motivation is lust for money rather than patriotism. For this reason, it was perceived that while addressing a group of businessmen and industrialists of Bangladesh, the Indian

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finance minister made this open proposal seeking transit facilities from Bangladesh, but not a single member of his audience had the courage to voice any protest or oppose the idea.

Editorial Views Relations With Pakistan

BK2507010594 Dhaka DAINIK ITTEFAQ in Bengali 15 Jul 94 p 2

[Editorial: "Dhaka-Islamabad Cooperation"]

[Text] The three-day long fifth session of the Bangladesh-Pakistan Joint Economic Commission was held in Dhaka recently with a view to identify new areas of cooperation between the two countries. During the meeting, the leader of the Pakistani delegation, Mr. Jafaery, said that the economy of the two countries are complementary in certain sectors and called for expanding the spheres of cooperation. Despite this, it has been observed that trade between the two countries is gradually declining. In the year 1991-92, the total volume of trade between the two sides amounted to $176.80 million but in the year 1992-93 this figure came down to $154.60 million. In this regard, it has also been observed that since the year 1985 the balance of trade has not been in Bangladesh's favor. During the last fiscal year, Bangladesh imported goods worth $67.90 million from Pakistan while it exported goods worth $43 million to that country. Under these circumstances, the commerce minister of Bangladesh has called for reducing the duty on Bangladeshi goods and increasing imports from this country. It must be mentioned that it is not possible to increase imports by giving speeches or by doing some paperwork. This has become evident through the trade Bangladesh is conducting with other countries.

Many people believe that the relationship between Dhaka and Islamabad is very friendly. If this one-sided deficit in the field of trade continues then it will naturally impede the normal growth of bilateral ties. The SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] member countries have agreed in principle on a 10-percent reduction in customs duty among themselves. The situation is likely to improve significantly if Pakistan implements this decision in the case of Bangladesh. It has been alleged that ships are not available for transportation of goods between the two countries. Due to shortage of ships it has become necessary to discuss various aspects of resuming trade between the two countries through an overland route.

Apart from trade, complexities exist between Dhaka and Islamabad on various other sectors. For a long time, the issue of repatriation of the Biharis from Bangladesh to Pakistan has remained unresolved, but Pakistan has pledged to take them back. Many people expected that this issue would be resolved during the tenure of former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. The government of Benazir Bhutto is showing no interest in resolving this problem. The issue of division of assets between the two governments also remains unresolved. According to an estimate prepared in 1974 by the Planning Commission of Bangladesh, this country will get an amount of 24.46 billion taka from Pakistan. In this regard several rounds of talks have been held between the two governments, but no decision has been reached yet on this issue. It is necessary to form a joint commission for reaching a settlement to the issue of the sharing of assets between Dhaka and Islamabad. Many people feel that in case of any difference of opinion in this regard the mediation of any third party or the International Court can be sought. It must be said that a resolution of the existing complexities between the two countries would undoubtedly lead to an expansion of bilateral cooperation.

India

Rao Hints Holding Elections 'Few Months' Earlier

BK2707025094 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Text] The Congress-I president, Mr. Narasimha Rao, today strongly defended the action taken by the Election Commission to check electoral malpractices. Addressing the general body meeting of the Congress-I party in the parliament, he stressed the need to check the influence of money and muscle power in polls. Mr. Rao asserted that criminalization of politics should be eradicated. Reiterating his party's commitment to the poll reforms, he accused the opposition of changing its stand frequently. The prime minister said the Lok Sabha elections in 1996 might be advanced by a few months as May and June are not convenient for the people. Mr. Rao asserted that though his party has secured majority in the Lok Sabha, the method of consensus will continue.

On panchayat raj [rural councils system] and rural development, the Congress-I president said huge amounts are being allocated for various welfare schemes, but the local administration in some places was unable to utilize these funds properly.

Minister Rules Out Repealing Foreign Exchange Act

BK2607155594 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Text] The government is not in favor of repealing the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, FERA. Replying to a question in the Rajya Sabha today, the finance minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, said that the position has been taken following the [securities] scam and the Bombay blast last year. He told the house that it is not possible to allow Indian capital to be sent abroad, though rules relating to foreign collaboration have been greatly simplified. Dr. Singh said that all South Asian countries have already resorted to current account convertibility and India cannot afford to be left out. A comprehensive review of the legislation is being undertaken at present and further changes may be considered after the review.

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He said significant steps have been taken since the amendment of the act last year toward convertibility on current account by liberalizing foreign exchange access.

Editorial Looks to Post-Rao Era

BK2507151794 Delhi THE ECONOMIC TIMES in English 18 Jul 94 p 6

[Editorial: "The Year of Thinking"]

[Text] The prime minister wants his countrymen to reflect on the nation's future over the next twelve months. He has also raised the question: "After Rao, who?" It is likely that most of his partymen will devote their thought processes to this question. One wonders whether this is an appropriate question in a democracy like ours. Whether it is in the party or government, the democratic process is meant to and will ensure choice and continuity. This was amply demonstrated three years ago when the Congress chose Mr Narasimha Rao as the prime minister. Even otherwise, raising this issue now can lead to divisions within the party.

It is more relevant to ask: After Rao what? There is no doubt that Mr. Rao's achievements go well beyond the cooling of tempers whipped up on the Mandir and Mandal issues and bringing peace to the state of Punjab. He has initiated a welcome change of course for the country's foreign policy and crisis-ridden economy. The only other period of such a decisive change in independent India was the one launched by Jawaharlal Nehru himself. Since then, India has managed to find new leadership and methods of governance, but their quality has suffered because the institutions Nehru built have been allowed to deteriorate. Therefore, the real issue is whether Mr. Narasimha Rao will leave behind an institutional legacy to support the new direction he has imparted to the nation's economic and foreign policies. One hopes the prime minister will devote the next twelve-months pondering over this issue. The solutions he finds to institutional problems will determine how historians and future generations of Indians will judge him.

This needs to be said as there has been little attempt at developing an institutional infrastructure to back up the new directions in our economic and foreign policies. The Cabinet committee on political affairs no longer exists. It is no secret in the capital that Cabinet meetings do no more than endorse decisions already taken elsewhere. The Planning Commission has not been revamped to meet the needs of economic liberalisation. There have been no administrative reforms to sustain liberalisation after Mr. Narasimha Rao and Dr. Manmohan Singh cease to be at the helm of affairs. There is no policy planning in the ministry of external affairs and some of the dirty linen recently washed in public reveals that the management of our foreign policy has become ad hoc and personalised. The formation of a National Security Council has once again been promised but there is very little evidence of hard thinking on the issue. In an institutionalised democracy, there should be no need to discuss the extension of the tenure of the cabinet secretary in an address at the Red Fort. That should have been decided a couple of months ago. Prime Minister Rao also needs to dispel the view that governance under him is becoming increasingly centralised.

Mr. Rao will go down in history for his economic liberalisation and his resilient foreign policy in the post-cold war era. Therefore, as a philosopher who spoke of fragility of human life, he should be interested in institutionalising his contributions. He should utilise the next twelve months to launch a massive effort to achieve that goal. Mr. Rao's strength is his age. Apparently he has no dynastic ambitions. Therefore he is uniquely well placed to push through rapid institutionalisation at the height of his power. If he embarks upon that task the whole nation will be prepared to think along with him and help him make his contributions permanent.

Commentary Views Action on Securities Scam

BK2707080494 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 27 Jul 94

[Commentary by Journalist Vishal Bakshi]

[Text] The action taken report on the recommendations of the Joint Parliamentary Committee, JPC, which probed into the multi-crore scam in the securities was tabled in the parliament yesterday. A close scrutiny of the report reveals that much of the information contained there is already known to the press. The opposition has lost no time in grabbing it as an issue on which the government will have to face tough time in the parliament over the next few days. Though it is an action taken report, the contents lead to the conclusion that in many cases action has just been initiated while in several others it is yet to begin. The government cannot be solely held responsible for this. The investigating agencies are still grappling with the complex nature of the entire irregularities done by a group of unscrupulous brokers in connivance with some banks and public sector officials. Most of the cases are still pending the special court.

The task before the investigating agencies can be gauged from the fact that prime accused stock broker Harshad Mehta had over 175 ban accounts in more than 20 banks in five cities. One of the major constraints in disposing off the scam cases quickly has been the lack of expertise and inadequate manpower with all the investigating agencies. The action taken report also indicates that the noose was tightening around many of those who purported the worst ever financial sector crime in the country's history.

The four foreign banks involved—Citibank, ANZ Grindley, Standard Chartered, and Bank of America—have not been allowed to repatriate the profits for the year 1991-92. Their applications for expanding the branch network has also been withheld. Further action by the Reserve Bank of India against these banks is in the

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offing. Action has been initiated against 97 officers of the public sector banks and institutions and 61 officers of the private sector banks, including the foreign banks.

The government has not denied the responsibility and accountability of the finance minister to the parliament, but at the same time it has asserted that this has to be a collective responsibility as it was not humanly possible for a finance minister to monitor the working of all the institutions and departments working under him. The irregularities seen in the scam began in 1986, a fact admitted by the JPC. It may have been a bit early to present the action taken report. It could better have been action initiated report not because the government has not pursued the action, but under the present legal set up and constraints faced by the investigating agencies, it is not possible to take action within a short time span. Justice must not be delayed, but must be rushed through with. [sentence as heard]

Defense Cooperation With ASEAN States Viewed

BK2607020694 Delhi NAVBHARAT TIMES in Hindi 21 Jul 94 p 8

[Report by Ranjit Kumar]

[Text] Indonesia has sought Indian assistance for the maintenance and repair of its warships. The Indonesian request is under consideration of the Indian Defense Ministry. Indonesia has recently purchased 39 warships from Germany. These warships were part of the East German Navy, and the German Navy has decided not to include them into its fleet. Indian naval engineers are well versed in the design and make of these Russian origin warships, and that is why Indonesia wants their repair and maintenance at Indian Naval Mazagaon Dockyard.

Indian acceptance of the request could infuse new life into the Indian naval dockyards. The managing director of the Mazagaon Naval Dockyard in Bombay had said at the time of handing over the submarine INS Shankul to the Indian Navy in May that the Mazagaon Dockyard Limited does not have enough work, and its capabilities are not being utilized. After the submarine's construction, the Indian Navy has not placed any new order with the Mazagaon Dockyard, and its technicians are sitting idle. The Defense Ministry sources say that in view of the fragile financial situation of not only the Mazagaon Dockyard but other naval dockyards, too, and the need to earn foreign exchange from defense related sources, it could be expected that India will accept the Indonesian request. The need to develop better strategic understanding with ASEAN also goes in favor of making such a decision. After assuming the responsibility of the maintenance of Indonesian warships, India can expect long-term defense cooperation with Indonesia.

The 39 warships purchased by Indonesia from Germany include 16 Soviet Perchim class corvettes, 14 Frosch class Landing Ship Tanks and nine Kondor class mine sweepers. Indonesia paid about $490 million for all these 39 warships, which is considered a dirt-cheap deal. The negotiations started soon after the unification of East and West Germany on the instruction of Indonesian President Suharto. India has developed considerable expertise in the manufacture of Russian origin corvettes, frigates, and destroyers, and the maintenance of these types of warships in India is much cheaper than any other country. The navies of India and Indonesia had already established important coordination during the joint naval exercise in the Andaman Sea last year. It is significant that Indonesia's maritime boundary is a mere 92 miles away from India's Andaman-Nicobar group of islands. The naval exercise with an important member country of ASEAN and a close neighbor of India not only created goodwill between the two countries, but removed the misunderstanding that by increasing its naval strength India is posing a threat to ASEAN. The latter half of the last decade witnessed a considerable increase in India's naval strength. New warships, submarines, and an aircraft carrier 'Virat' was inducted into the Navy. The increase in naval strength had caused apprehensions from Australia to ASEAN. However, following the end of the Cold War, strategic and diplomatic coordination between India and ASEAN states has increased which has helped remove apprehensions about India.

India had also concluded a defense cooperation treaty with Malaysia—another important member of ASEAN—early last year. The implementation of this treaty will mark the beginning of an entirely new phase of India-Malaysia defense cooperation. It is worth mentioning that Malaysia has purchased a squadron of Mig-29 fighter aircraft from Russia whose pilots will be trained by the Indian Air Force. It is also envisaged that India will assume the responsibility of maintenance and repair of these planes. For this, India and Russia signed an agreement to set up an Indo-Asian Aviation Company during Prime Minister Narasimha Rao's visit to Russia. The Indian Navy has also conducted joint exercises with the Malaysian Navy.

Singapore is another ASEAN member country with which India has conducted joint naval exercises. India has developed better strategic understanding with ASEAN through the medium of the naval exercises. The scope of enhanced defense cooperation with ASEAN has provided a new vision to the Indian strategic planning. Increased military dependence on India of ASEAN member states, which are considered as strategic allies of the United States and the West, can prove to be a positive aspect for the Indian strategic planning. It is interesting that ASEAN member states have started increasing their military power following the end of the Cold War. The reason is that a big debate has been created between China, ASEAN states and Vietnam over the sovereignty of oil-rich Spratly group of islands. Presently, China occupies this group of islands and it has significantly increased its naval presence in the area to protect them. Fearful of this development, the Southeast

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Asian nations have started increasing their air and naval strength. The ASEAN states have given priority to acquiring Russian warships and aircraft to deal with the aggressive Chinese naval presence in Southeast Asian nation's coastal areas in South China Sea because they are available at cheap rates. Possibly, these compulsions of ASEAN nations will bring India and ASEAN still closer and give new impetus to the defense cooperation between them.

Nepalese Leftist Movement Against King Decried

BK2307071194 Delhi JANSATTA in Hindi 19 Jul 94 p 6

[Editorial: "Unnecessary Movement"]

[Text] The leftists in Nepal have launched an unnecessary movement against the king. Following the resignation of Girija Prasad Koirala government, they wanted the formation of a national government with a role for themselves. In view of the current political strife and rivalry in Nepal, no guarantee could have been given for the future of such a government. That is why if the Nepal king rejected this demand and acceded to Girija Prasad Koirala's proposal, there is no need to create havoc. On the prime minister's advice, the king dissolved the parliament, ordered midterm polls on 13 November and kept the Koirala administration as a caretaker government till the elections. It is not right to argue that the parliament should not be dissolved on the recommendation of a government that had lost a parliamentary vote and that it should not be allowed to work as a caretaker government. It is true that the Koirala government failed to get the motion of thanks for the king's address passed in the parliament due to the absence of 36 dissident party members, but it was not constitutionally bound to resign for this reason. It resigned on moral grounds. There might be differences over the Nepal king's decision—taken after considering all the above things—and all Nepalese leaders and parties have the democratic right to express their differences publicly, but it should also be considered that it will not be in the interest of Nepal's democracy to unnecessarily make the king's decision as a subject of the people's movement, especially in view of the status he enjoys in the present Nepalese democratic setup.

The Leftists in Nepal no longer have faith in the monarchy. They, however, should avoid situations that weaken the foundations of present democratic structure in the country. Their movement seems to suggest that they are overenthusiastic about assuming power through the back doors, and they have reservations about the mid-term polls. One simple reason for this is that their popularity has been in decline for the past few years, which is reflected in the outcome of recent byelections. The leftists in Nepal think that by launching an eight-day agitation against the king, they can not only reactivate their organization, but attract public attention, too. They have already started a five-day program of processions and rallies, and they have appealed for a three-day countrywide strike starting 24 July. The type of agitation they have launched may pose a threat of political tension and violence. It should also not be forgotten that such tactics do not always bear fruit.

Editorial Views Inquiry Into Sugar Scandal

BK2507135694 Delhi THE ECONOMIC TIMES in English 19 Jul 94 p 6

[Editorial: "Not Enough"]

[Text] The inquiry that the prime minister has ordered into the sugar scandal deserves only a qualified welcome. There are several reasons for this, apart from the obvious one of delay. To begin with, an inquiry "to ascertain facts and fix prima facie responsibility for lapses, if any, in dealing with the situation arising from shortage in the availability of sugar" does not address itself to the basic problem in the sugar muddle. The commodity spawns scandals time and again—the report on the 1989 edition is quite recent—essentially because of official control over sugar, covering licensing capacity to deciding supply and price of the commodity and its raw material. The process serves more to conceal inefficiencies and nurture rent-seeking than to protect consumer interest. The way out is decontrol and official intervention only to rid the system of volatility through transparent buffer-stocking. The present inquiry seeks to investigate only the identities of the adventurers who fall into the many pitfalls of the sugar policy; removing the pitfalls is outside its ambit.

Further, the manner in which the probe has been ordered makes it difficult to take it at face value. It comes just a week before the opening of the monsoon session of Parliament and serves as a shield for the government to deflect Opposition criticism. Admittedly, the time limit of one month set for the inquiry appears business-like. However, in such inquiries, extensions are the rule, rather than the exception. The person entrusted with the inquiry, former comptroller and auditor general (CAG), Mr Gian Prakash, had left service a dozen or so years ago and would legitimately require some familiarisation with the current rules and regulations, to get down to work. This provides and objective ground for delay. It is reinforced by doubt over the constitutional propriety of a former CAG, prohibited to hold any office after retirement, conducting an inquiry of this sort. The government must dispel the view that the probe is intended to perform something more redeeming than an honest, down-to-earth eye-wash.

Iran

Further Reportage on Turkish President's Visit

Talks Resume With Hashemi-Rafsanjani

NC2707072694 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 27 Jul 94

[Text] In their second round of talks in Tehran last night, the presidents of Iran and Turkey reviewed the most

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important political and security developments in the region and the world and the outcome of the activities of the joint political, security, and economic committees.

The Central News Unit reports that the Iranian chairmen of the three committees submitted a report to the two presidents on the outcome of the talks between the Iranian and Turkish delegations.

On security affairs, the need for the two countries' security officials to continue their meetings and the importance of agreements on security cooperation between Tehran and Ankara were highlighted.

On political affairs, discussions were held and views exchanged on developments in the region and in northern Iraq; the situation in Azerbaijan, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and Afghanistan; and ways to consolidate the Economic Cooperation Organization, ECO, and the Islamic Conference Organization.

On economic and trade affairs, it was agreed that the volume of bilateral trade should increase, that the minor problems in trade be removed rapidly with the cooperation of both sides, and that the two countries' experts exchange further views on the transit and transport of goods from Turkish ports to Iran.

Serious agreements were reached on rapidly connecting the two countries' highways and, since the Qazvin-Zanjan highway is to be completed by the end of the current year [ending 20 March 1995] and its extension to Tabriz and the Bazargan border is to continue, it was agreed that Turkey too begin building the Ankara-Bazargan highway so that once the two countries' highways are connected, Iran's links with Europe will also be made possible.

Concluding, the Turkish president said that the outcome of the talks was positive and added: A new era has started in the two countries' relations and Turkey will do its best to implement the agreements that have been reached.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani also referred to the friendly and sincere atmosphere that ruled the talks between the two countries' delegations and described cooperation between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Turkey as extremely effective in maintaining the two countries' security and progress in the region. Accepting the Turkish president's invitation to visit Turkey, he expressed the hope that more issues, important ones, will be discussed during that trip.

Demirel Meets With Habibi

LD2707084794 Tehran IRNA in English 0838 GMT 27 Jul 94

[Text] Tehran, July 27, IRNA—Turkish President Suleyman Demirel and Iran's First Vice-President Hasan Habibi here Tuesday discussed expansion of bilateral relations. Referring to the long- standing and fraternal ties between the two countries Habibi said Iran believed that bilateral relations should further increase to a higher level. He also underlined implementation of the agreements already reached between the two sides, adding that Turkey could have an access to the Persian Gulf, Far East and Central Asia via Iran when roads and railways under construction in Iran would be completed. Stressing on bilateral economic, political, cultural, industrial and technical cooperation, the vice-president hoped for further expansion of Tehran-Ankara friendly relations in all domains. Habibi pointed to the membership of Central Asian states in the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) and called for mutual cooperation within the organization.

Meanwhile, Demirel underlined the importance of exchange of visits between Iranian and Turkish delegations and said that such visits would play a key role in the promotion of bilateral economic, political and cultural ties. Referring to the volume of trade between the two neighbors, President Demirel noted that the two countries could not only meet each other's needs through their domestic products but could become terminals for the transfer of energy from Central Asian states to other parts of the world by expanding their road and railway networks.

Demirel heading a high-ranking political and economic delegation arrived here Monday for a three-day official visit.

Demirel Discusses Trade With Nateq-Nuri

LD2607182194 Tehran IRNA in English 1650 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Text] Tehran, July 26, IRNA—Visiting Turkish President Suleyman Demirel and Majles Speaker of Iran 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri here Monday discussed promotion of Tehran-Ankara parliamentary and trade ties, cooperation within the frameworks of Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) [ICO] and Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO).

Referring to the bilateral talks held between the two countries' presidents in Tehran, Nateq-Nuri supported the stances declared by President Rafsanjani regarding international and regional issues and Tehran-Ankara relations.

Referring to Tehran-Ankara parliamentary links, Nateq-Nuri said that 'active friendly' relations between the two countries' parliaments will further help the strengthening of relations between the two neighbors. The speaker further added that Iran's Majlis has set up a parliamentary friendship group in this connection.

As for bilateral economic and trade ties, Nateq-Nuri pointed out the existing grounds for cooperation and termed as good but insufficient the current trend of economic and trade exchanges between the two countries. The Iranian official expressed hope that solvable, minor and transient problems would not impede promotion of Tehran-Ankara trade ties.

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He underlined the necessity for Tehran-Ankara joint decision making in OIC and ECO on the regional and international issues. Emphasizing the importance of the membership of the newly independent Central Asian republics in ECO, he called for convention of a meeting with participation of speakers of the ECO member states. Touching on Balkan crisis and the Bosnia-Herzegovina plight, Nateq-Nuri referred to opposition of the Serbs to the recent peace plans and called for taking serious measures toward the aggressor Serbs. He also commented that representatives from Iran, Turkey, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia should convene a joint meeting to deal with the issue.

Demirel in return welcomed the idea to boost bilateral parliamentary relations and expressed satisfaction with discussions he had with his Iranian counterpart, President Rafsanjani.

Referring to the sensitivity of the region, President Demirel termed as fruitful the expansion of parliamentary relations between Iran and Turkey. Commenting on the geopolitical location of the two neighbouring countries which bridge Asia with Europe, Demirel hoped for removal of transportation problems and facilitation of transportation.

Voicing pleasure with Iran's Majlis cooperation to bolster Tehran-Ankara ties, Turkish president welcomed the idea to convene a meeting between ECO speakers and underlined bilateral cooperation within ECO and OIC. Also calling the volume of trade exchanges as insufficient, Demirel expressed hope that the volume of exchanges would stand at dlrs. 2 billion in the near future.

As for Balkan crisis, Demirel termed as momentous and fruitful joint stances by Iran, Turkey, Croatia toward Bosnia-Herzegovina plight.

News Conference Reported

LD2607180494 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Text] At a news conference this afternoon Turkish President Suleyman Demirel described the outcome of his talks with the Iranian authorities.

Referring to the good relations between Iran and Turkey he said: The two countries' authorities should strive, more than ever, for the expansion of cooperation in the ECO [Economic Cooperation Organization], the Islamic Conference Organization, and other international forums. He said: The expansion of cooperation regarding transport and communications is one of the most important issues which should be considered.

On cooperation between the two countries in relation to oil and gas Mr. Demirel expressed the hope that the project on the transfer of Turkmenistan's gas would be operational as soon as possible, with the cooperation of the three countries. The Turkish president described cooperation between Iran and Turkey in seeking solutions to the crises in Bosnia and Azerbaijan as very constructive.

In reply to a question from the Kuwaiti news agency on whether cooperation between Turkey and Iraq is a violation of the UN sanctions against Iraq, the Turkish president said: We discuss political issues with Iraq, and if there is any cooperation it is to safeguard the rights of the people of Iraq.

Also, in an exclusive interview with our correspondent, Mr. Demirel described his views on regional issues and mutual ties. He stated that Iran and Turkey are two large countries in the region; there is mutual trust between them, and the enemies of the two nations will not be able to disrupt their relations.

The Turkish president said the $1 billion volume of trade between the two countries is a good example of economic cooperation. He declared: Considering existing capacities, that figure could rise to $2 billion per annum. Discussing the delay in the implementation of some economic agreements between the two countries, Mr. Demirel said: At talks with the Iranian president we instructed the officials of the two countries' joint economic committee to follow up past agreements.

Asked why the Turkish Government does not put an end to the activities of terrorist and counterrevolutionary Iranian minigroups in Turkey, the Turkish president said: We put emphasis on the agreement between the two countries about preventing such activities. We say clearly that no one can engage in terrorist action against the Islamic Republic of Iran on Turkish soil.

On the victory of the Islamic Rifah Party at that country's recent election, Mr. Demirel said: Everyone is Muslim and respects religion in Turkey. He said: Laic views in Turkey do not negate religion, but follow the doctrine of separating religion and politics.

In reply to a question as to why certain Turkish officials wish to combat the trend of Islamic fundamentalism in that country, Mr. Demirel said: They are mistaken; we are all Muslims.

Demirel on Cooperation

TA2607191094 Ankara TRT Television Network in Turkish 1700 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Report by Ertugrul Bulent Danaci from Tehran]

[Text] In a news conference attended by foreign and Turkish correspondents in Tehran today, President Suleyman Demirel stressed that Turkey and Iran are two big and important countries in the region. Pointing out that as a result of his contacts he observed that the necessary will exists to advance bilateral relations and cooperation, Demirel noted: Mutual trust is the basic condition for this. He cited the areas of cooperation that emerged during his contacts as follows:

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[Begin Demirel recording] The first subject in bilateral relations consists of the volume of trade, which currently stands at $1 billion. The sides want to increase this to $2 billion.

The second issue in bilateral relations is transportation. There must be passage from Europe to Asia and vice versa. Moreover, Turkey must reach Asia and the Gulf. Conversely, Iran must reach Europe. In other words, Iran and Turkey must facilitate these passages for one another.

Another matter concerns the joint projects launched between the two countries. The linking of the electricity grids is one of them. This has been undertaken and it is ready to become operational any day now. Turkey is in a position to sell 25 million kilowatt hours of electricity to Iran and buy the same in exchange. This is the first phase. The second phase will be more significant.

Another important issue is the inevitability of the transportation of oil and gas resources to Europe via Turkey and Iran. It is becoming apparent that in the coming period Turkey and Iran will fulfill the significant task of acting as an energy terminal during the transportation of these resources to their destination. Cooperation will be conducted in this area. As a start, some time ago, Turkmenistan, Iran, and Turkey decided to transport gas from Turkmenistan to Turkey via Iran within two years. The launching of this project as soon as possible will benefit the county. Iran itself will use some of this gas.

There is a security cooperation agreement between Turkey and Iran. The two countries are determined not to allow their territories to be used against one another. Consequently, we are talking about a comprehensive cooperation. [end recording]

Demirel Departs After 'Useful' Visit

LD2707130494 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 27 Jul 94

[Text] Turkish President Suleyman Demirel left Tehran this morning after receiving an official send-off by Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani. During his three-day stay in Tehran, Mr. Demirel held talks with our country's officials about the expansion of economic, political, and cultural relations between the two countries.

According to our correspondent's report, the Turkish president spoke to reporters before his departure and considered his visit as very useful. He said: In view of the extensive range of topics of discussion with Iranian officials, the future prospects for relations between the two countries is very bright. Mr. Demirel added: We have agreed to remove obstacles on the path of expansion of bilateral relations, and increase the volume of our commercial transactions from $1 billion to $2 billion per year.

The Turkish president, furthermore, said that some of the most important topics of discussion with the Iranian officials were as follows: Transit affairs and Iran's connection to Europe through Turkish territory, connection of the two countries' electricity networks, transfer of the Turkmenistan republic's natural gas to Turkey through the Iranian territory, the transfer of Iranian natural gas to Europe via Turkey, interconnection of road networks, connection of the European railway from London to Central Asia via Turkey and Iran, development of multifaceted communication links within the framework of the Economic Cooperation Organization, and joint cooperation in industry and contract work.

He said: The officials of Iran and Turkey have also stressed the principles of not intervening in the internal affairs of each other, respecting territorial integrity, and not allowing the use of the territory of one country against the other. Mr. Demirel also stressed: The two countries have common viewpoints regarding international issues, such as the problems of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Azerbaijan Republic, northern Iraq, and Afghanistan. The Turkish president emphasized: Decisions adopted during this visit will be highly effective for the establishment of peace and tranquillity in the region.

Our correspondent's report also states that before seeing off Mr. Demirel, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani took part in an interview with reporters at Mehrabad Airport. He said that in view of the agreements reached on expansion of relations between the two countries, his negotiations with the Turkish president were very fruitful. He added: Political cooperation between the two countries in the region will lead to the establishment of equilibrium, stability, and tranquillity. In view of the existing crises in Afghanistan and the republics of Tajikistan and Azerbaijan, the role of Iran and Turkey in resolving these problems enjoys a special importance.

The president of our country said: In these negotiations, the aspirations of both countries in all fields materialized. Also on international issues, such as Bosnia-Herzegovina, the Persian Gulf and Central Asia region, there was no discrepancy between the viewpoints of the two countries.

In reference to commercial and economic cooperation between Iran and Turkey, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani alluded to agreements between the officials of the two countries aimed at making trade tariffs more fair. He said: In view of the low cost of transport of goods between the two countries, the private sectors of Iran and Turkey can become more active.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani emphasized the need to follow up previous agreements on infrastructural areas, and said: We have reached agreement on cooperation within the framework of the ECO, construction of a highway between Iran and Turkey so as to have access to Europe and Central Asia, the rejuvenation of the Silk Road, and finally the transfer of Iranian and Turkmen natural gas to Europe. Turkey has made a request to buy 10 billion

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cubic meters of natural gas from Iran, and for the time being we have agreed to sell them 2 billion cubic meters.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, moreover, expressed the hope that the visit by Mr. Demirel may improve even further the already flourishing relations between the two countries.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Interviewed on Ties With Turkey

NC2707104094 Ankara TURKISH DAILY NEWS in English 22 Jul 94 p A2

["Text" of an "exclusive" interview with President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani by Ilnur Cevik in Tehran; date not given]

[Text] Question—Mr. President, Turkey and Iran have had some political problems in the past but today these problems have been solved and you are now heading for a summit with Turkish President Suleyman Demirel next week. What concrete results do you expect from this visit? What should happen so you can regard yourself as successful.

Answer—Our discussions will center around decisions made in the past and we are going to strengthen our relationship once again. We will review the issues which we already covered in past discussions. I do not have any specific issues in my mind beforehand. We will of course discuss the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), Iraq, regional security and economic issues. We have many topics to discuss.

Question—Mr. President, what does Turkey represent for you? How do you view Turkey from Tehran? Do you still feel the lack of trust which once existed between the two countries? How will we overcome this?

Answer—We believe that there is no feeling of mistrust between Iran and Turkey and that two countries share a feeling of trust. But what I can say is that always after making joint decisions between the two countries there are some secret forces that try to create impediments in the application of these decisions.

Question—Do you mean to say that the period of mistrust is over and that we are starting a new era?

Answer—During the past few years while we have increased our mutual understanding we have made good progress. When we discuss things with His Excellency Suleyman Demirel we feel we share feelings of brotherhood and friendship. We feel warmth when His Excellency Demirel is talking to us. It is very easy for Iran and Turkey to distinguish what is best for the good of the two countries. There is still some feeling of uneasiness about the implementation of some of the decisions which have been adopted.

Question—Which decisions?

Answer—If you look at decisions we have made in the past in many cases you will see we have not achieved the objectives while some of them have been implemented completely.

Question—Mr. President we know that there is a high level of understanding between Turkey and Iran on security issues. We are also aware that there have been very positive steps very recently on both sides. But despite this a few days ago there were claims that PKK [Kurdish Workers Party] separatist terrorists moved from Iranian territory inside Turkey and killed some Turkish soldiers. There are claims that while at the higher level there is a good understanding on security issues, at the lower level there are still some misunderstandings and mistrust. Do you agree with this and what can be done to eliminate it.

Answer—I am not aware of the case that you have mentioned but these incidents can happen on both sides. In some cases we have been attacked from the outside. Other territories have been used to attack our forces. What I believe we can do is that we should ask the persons who are in charge of maintaining security to observe all the policies and decisions we have made with Turkish leaders and they should be responsible for the implementation of the policies we make.

Question—Could you tell us concretely that Iran is cooperating and will be cooperating with Turkey as far as Kurdish terrorism is concerned? Can you say this cooperation has a solid base and Iran is going to do whatever it can to assist Turkey?

Answer—It is for the good of both countries to preserve security in the region. It is important for us to see that security is established in Turkey and it is something mutual. We are ready to go as far as Turkey is ready to go and cooperate with the Islamic Republic of Iran in the field of security.

Question—Is Turkey fulfilling its obligations on security matters?

Answer—Of course it is not at the optimum level.

Question—What do you expect from Turkey in this field?

Answer—We believe that Turkey and Iran should not allow the antagonistic elements to use the territory of one country to attack the territory of the other. If there is anything that jeopardizes the security of the region the two countries should cooperate to destroy it.

Question—But, are you happy with what Turkey is doing now on security?

Answer—As I mentioned, it is improving and has reached a good level.

Question—Are you 100 percent on Turkey's side in combating Turkish terrorism? Are you prepared to go as far as Turkey wants you to do?

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Answer—As far as Turkey is prepared to go with us we are prepared to go that far with Turkey.

Question—Mr. President, do you think the establishment of a Kurdish state is possible in our region? What kind of a security formula would Iran foresee to establish more permanent security for the Kurds in northern Iraq?

Answer—We share a common position with Turkey that the territorial integrity of Iraq should be preserved. Of course the Iraqi government should give some advantages to the Kurdish population so that those people can live there in peace and enjoy security. The Iraqi Kurds should not feel any kind of discrimination.

Question—But, do you think an independent Kurdish state is feasible in the region and what would be Iran's reaction to that?

Answer—It is very, very difficult and improbable to visualize an independent Kurdish state among countries such as Turkey, Iran, Syria and Iraq. When the Kurdish population enjoy the feeling of security and feel they are being treated in a just manner and that they are not being discriminated against by the government then there is no need for the establishment of a separate Kurdish state.

Question—But you are not saying no. Are you leaving some room for maneuver?

Answer—Of course we do not agree with the establishment of a Kurdish state but it is a matter related to Iraq. We cannot interfere in the internal affairs of Iraq. We disagree with the disintegration of Iraq.

Question—Could you tell us about your collaboration or cooperation or even your confrontation in the Caucasus and the former Soviet republics in Central Asia? At the start there seemed to be rivalry to influence these republics. But now we see competition is being replaced with cooperation. Is this because you did not succeed or the Turks could not succeed?

Answer—Of course competition exists and we believe that the competition should be a positive competition and not a negative one. It should benefit the Iranian side, the Turkish side and whoever will be the end receivers in these republics. Competition should be more like cooperation.

Question—Do you think Iran was successful in the former republics of the Soviet Union?

Answer—Of course the potential for cooperation in the ex-Soviet republics is much more than what we have now. We can do much more than what we have done so far.

Question—There is a movement in the West to isolate Iran. The late President Turgut Ozal was always against this and he was telling our friends in the West that this was a wrong policy. Do you still feel the current administration in Turkey is continuing to tell its friends in the West that this is a wrong policy?

Answer—We are satisfied with the behavior of the Turkish Government and we regard them as rather good partners.

Question—What was your reaction when Refah [Welfare Party], which is led by Necmettin Erbakan, obtained a good result in the local elections in Turkey in March?

Answer—We are not willing to interfere in the internal affairs of Turkey. It is natural whenever Muslims are successful we will be happy. It is an internal matter of your country and anything that your people decide on we will cooperate with.

Question—Would you like to see Turkey run by Refah, or the Motherland Party or the True Path Party?

Answer—I cannot talk about your internal affairs.

Question—But, what is your personal opinion?

Answer—My personal opinion, whenever Muslims are successful, we will be happy.

Question—Don't you think if Turkey was run by Refah it would have much close relations with Iran?

Answer—We should wait and see. Presently we are enjoying very good relations with Turkey.

Question—Is there a Kurdish problem in Iran?

Answer—We cannot say that we do not have any Kurdish problem at all but it is not something that cannot be solved. In the Kurdistan province just as in other provinces the government has much influence. The majority of the Kurdish population are with the government and as you see whenever there is a problem in northern Iraq the Kurdish population living there take refuge in Iran. Once the Iranian Government gave refuge to more than 1.2 million Iraqi Kurds. Even today we have Iraqi Kurdish refugee camps inside Iran.

Question—How did you solve your Kurdish problem? I am sure you have quite a lesson to give other parties.

Answer—We did this through justice and kindness. To a large extent the Islamic spirit helped us because the Kurds are Muslims and say Islam exists in Iran. We are also helped by the Islamic Revolutionary Guards and the people's mobilization force.

Question—So actually you used quite a strong force in order to control the Kurdish problem?

Answer—We cannot say a strong force but an adequate and sufficient force necessary to prevent them from facing any mischief in that area. But we are concentrating more on providing people with services and treating them with justice and keeping them happy, they enjoy freedom, they have their own representatives in parliament and their own religious people are active in the mosques.

Question—But there was a confrontation at the start of the revolution between the Kurds and Iran wasn't there?

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Answer—Yes, at the time the confrontations were serious but we overcame them by force. But, during the eight years of the imposed war with Iraq the Kurds cooperated with us.

Question—As a last question Mr. President do you feel yourself politically strong today in Iran?

Answer—I believe so and I do not have any problems in this regard.

Commentary Views Demirel's Visit to Tehran

NC2607212494 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Turkish 1630 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Unattributed commentary: "President Demirel's Visit to Tehran"]

[Text] On 25 July President Suleyman Demirel arrived in Tehran on a three-day official visit to Iran. A high-level delegation of industrialists, businessmen, and political and economic officials are accompanying him. Diplomatic delegations of the two countries held talks several times during the past year. Naturally, depending on the importance of the matters the two countries discussed, the delegations were headed either by deputy prime ministers or vice presidents. President Demirel's visit to Tehran is an indication that talks between the two countries have reached the highest level.

Meanwhile, the two presidents will reportedly hold talks on bilateral economic matters, Iraq's situation and the effort to fragment that country, and bilateral and regional security. Given the inclusion of a group of industrialists in Demirel's delegation, it is believed that he plans to call for the promotion of economic ties between the two countries. It will be recalled that trade between Iran and Turkey totaled $2 billion in 1985; that figure has decreased to $800 million at the present time. It is common knowledge that both Iran and Turkey have the strength and capacity to improve their economic ties. The social and historic relations between them are a sound basis for that purpose.

In addition to improving their bilateral economic relations, the Islamic Republic of Iran is convinced that Tehran and Ankara can establish mutually beneficial economic ties with the countries in the Caucasus and Central Asia within the framework of the Economic Cooperation Organization. However, an effective level of cooperation cannot be established in the absence of an atmosphere of mutual and regional security. Therefore, the two presidents will focus attention on that matter in their talks.

Tehran and Ankara have held useful talks and concluded several important agreements on security and economic matters during the past few months. However, as President Hashemi-Rafsanjani informed Turkish journalists and Turkish Radio and Television Network correspondents on the eve of President Demirel's visit, secret forces have created several problems and obstructed many of the decisions the two sides have adopted in the past, regardless of the confidence that exists at the higher levels of the two countries' administrations. Obviously, the two presidents will discuss this so that relations between Iran and Turkey can be improved and protected against harmful activities and acts of sabotage.

Significance of Visit Noted

NC2707083094 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 27 Jul 94

[Commentary by News Research and Commentaries Group]

[Text] In their second round of talks, the presidents of Iran and Turkey reviewed the outcome of the activities of the political, security, and economic committees of the two countries and described it as positive.

Our President Hashemi-Rafsanjani said that the friendly and sincere atmosphere that prevailed in the talks between the two countries' delegations speaks of the political will of the Iranian and Turkish officials to expand relations, adding that the economic, political, and security cooperation between Ankara and Tehran is aimed at preserving the two countries' security and advancement and benefits neighboring countries.

Iran and Turkey—as two Muslim and neighboring countries with a population totalling 120 million—have much potential for trade and economic cooperation. Both countries—as the founders of the ECO [Economic Cooperation Organization], which includes 10 regional countries—can pave the way for the formation of a powerful economic pole in the region by expanding their economic relations.

The increase in the volume of trade and joint investments and the strengthening of transportation networks, as well as the transfer of energy, electricity, and gas lines, are among the topics that were agreed on during the Turkish president's visit to our country. During the past 15 years, the Islamic Republic of Iran, which has emphasized the importance of expanding economic and political relations with its neighbors, has attached special importance to its economic relations with Turkey. The consolidation of economic and political bonds and the volume of trade between the two countries during the past decade manifest the interest of the Iranian and Turkish officials in deepening relations between the two countries.

Considering the current world economic conditions and with the disintegration of the Soviet Union, the need for the two countries' economic cooperation in Central Asia under the ECO has granted special significance to the strengthening of the two countries' economic and political relations. Also, the need to expand Iran's highways and routes to Europe via Turkey and Turkey's need for access to the network of Iranian routes that link the Persian Gulf and Central Asia have made it necessary to

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expand the transportation routes between the two countries. With the visit of the high-ranking Turkish delegation to Iran, favorable conditions for the expansion of ground and rail routes have begun, something that will have significant impact on the expansion of political, economic, and cultural relations.

In addition, since both Iran and Turkey can supply many of each other's needs, an increase in the volume of trade as well as the creation of a trade balance will make it possible for an increase in trade between Iran and Turkey up to $2 billion.

At any rate, the visit by Turkish President Demirel to Iran creates a favorable opportunity for the two countries' high-ranking officials to exchange views on regional issues and to pave the way for a further expansion of Tehran-Ankara relations in the economic, political, and security fields.

Transportation Minister on Outcome of Turkish Visit

LD2307214694 Tehran IRNA in English 2105 GMT 23 Jul 94

[Text] Tehran, July 23, IRNA—Transportation Minister, Akbar Torkan, said here today that a passenger terminal is to be built in the town of Bazargan on the Iran-Turkey border with the joint investment of the two countries.

Talking to reporters on the results of his recent visit to Turkey, he said licences were issued for Iranian and Turkish trucks to travel to the other country but negotiations for loading licences are to be held later in Tehran.

On the high rate charged by Turkey on railway tarrifs, Torkan added, it was decided that the Turkish railways charge Iran a quarter lesser than the joint rate among Iran, Bulgaria and Turkey.

He also said iran was fulfilling its part of an agreement reached by the two countries' presidents two years ago on linking the highways of the two countries.

President Suleyman Demirel of Turkey is expected in Tehran on Monday [25 July].

On the railway project designed to link Mashhad to Sarakhs on the Turkmenistan border in northeastern Iran, Torkan expected that work would be completed in two years' time.

The project, when complete, will link the Iranian railways to the central Asian-European network.

Media Reaction to Jordanian-Israeli Agreement

'March of Submissiveness' Seen

NC2607184794 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1750 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] King Husayn of Jordan and Yitzhaq Rabin, prime minister of the Zionist entity, held an official meeting for the first time in Washington yesterday in the presence of U.S. President Clinton. The meeting was preceded by several secret meetings between Jordanian and Zionist leaders.

At their latest meeting, the two sides signed the third compromise agreement between Tel Aviv and Arab parties in the White House in Washington. Egypt and the PLO had earlier signed compromise agreements with the Zionist entity. Jordan has now joined this submissive march. With the signing of this agreement, a 36-year-long state of war has officially ended. It is expected the two sides will cooperate in various spheres, including border security, joint utilization of water, and the project to link the Dead Sea with the Red Sea.

Political analysts believe that although the compromise agreement expands the march of submissiveness in the region and increases pressure on Syria and Lebanon to join the submissive scheme, this march, just like all earlier capitulationist attempts and schemes, has not gone beyond officials in the government; the people remain isolated from it. The Camp David accord that was signed between Egypt and Tel Aviv 16 years ago remained limited to the political level due to the Egyptian people's objections to it, even though cooperation has developed at the official level. The Israeli Embassy in Cairo is more like a military stronghold for fear of the wrath of the Muslim Egyptian people. Although Israeli tourist visits are heavily guarded by the military, they are often subjected to attacks by the sons of the proud Egyptian people, who express their anger and dismay at these tourists. Moreover, the Egyptian people have boycotted Israeli goods completely and prevented any economic cooperation with the entity that has usurped Arab and Muslim land.

Observers believe that there are many reasons for the failure to achieve normalization and compromise between Arab states and the Zionist entity. Governments' viewpoint on the Palestine issue is different from that of the sons of the Arab nation. This is one of the main reasons behind the failure of attempts at normalization. A number of Jordanian deputies and party members have declared the day of the meeting between the Jordanian leader and the Zionist prime minister a day of national mourning. This is the best demonstration of differences between the leaders and the people. Moreover, the nature of the compromise with the Zionist enemy only seeks to preserve the existence of that entity and its military control on the region. This is the second reason why compromises in Israel's favor have failed.

The free people of the region can never accept that. The agreement signed in Washington yesterday does not grant Jordan any specific privileges even though it officially recognized the Zionist entity. This entity now shares the waters of Jordan River and the Dead Sea with Jordan.

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'History of Compromise' Reviewed

LD2707093494 Tehran IRNA in English 0754 GMT 27 Jul 94

[Text] Tehran, July 27, IRNA—Two Iranian dailies Wednesday [27 July] commented on the recent treaty signed between Jordan and the Zionist regime with TEHRAN TIMES expressing doubt if Jordan's peace would be successful and 'JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI' doubting its outcomes. The English daily 'TEHRAN TIMES' stressed in its editorial that peace must be honorable and equitable and that it must be initiated and endorsed by those whose future is affected by it. Turning to the provisions made under the treaty, it said that the two people can talk directly on the telephone, fly over each other's territory and cooperate on fighting crime. The paper said that in return, "the Amman government has lost the little support it had among its own people, and is shunned by the Muslims throughout the world". It added that more than a quarter of the members of the Jordanian parliament have demanded nullification of the treaty and intend to designate July 25, the day the treaty was signed, as a day of national mourning.

Turning to the history of compromise with the Zionist regime, it said that Cairo was the first among Muslim nations to abandon the cause of Islam and unilaterally make peace with Tel Aviv. The paper said that despite the pomises given by the U.S. to the then Egyptian President Anwar al-Sadat for enough economic aid to pull the country out of poverty, after 15 years Cairo is still among the poorest nations in the region .

Turning to what Egypt gained from compromise with the Zionist regime, it said, "Al-Sadat was shot dead by his own people who resented his subservience to the Americans and their Zionist proxies." It took a long time for Egypt to be accepted back in the Muslim world.

Touching on the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) as the second in the chain of compromise with Tel Aviv, the paper said that it gave in to U.S. promises of economic aid and the pressures of isolations, resulting from supporting Iraq's Saddam Husayn in his invasion of Kuwait. The editorial referred to the PLO expectations of the Gaza-Jericho agreement signed with the Zionist regime last September and said " 'Arafat miscalculated again".

"His own people are rejecting the U.S.-imposed peace treaty, and his authority is becoming seriously under question even in the Palestinian-administered areas".

The last in the chain is Jordan's King Husayn who was promised that his country will be given high priority in managing the holy Qods [Jerusalem]. This faced immediate reaction of PLO's 'Arafat who said that Qods should represent the Palestinian sovereignty.

Referring to the old Zionist policy of creating division among the Arabs, it said "the Palestinians and the Jordanians are also at odds over the fact that Jordan may become a pool of cheap labour for the Zionist entity and cause an important source of Palestinian income to shrink".

Stressing that neither 'Arafat nor al-Sadat achieved a substantive concession in dealing with the Zionists and abandoning their national and religious interest, it said that all they got was the enmity of their own people and the loss of their prestige among the Muslim world. The paper concluded by referring to the Egyptian and PLO failures to make an honorable and equitable peace with the Zionist entity and said it seems very unlikely that Jordan will succeed. Commenting on the same topic, the Persian daily 'JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI' said that reconciliation with the Zionist enemy was easy but it was hard to bear its consequences. In a political commentary, the daily referred to the visit to the occupied Palestine of al-Sadat and his shaking hands with the head of the Zionist regime and his trip to the Camp David and said that only three years later he was shot dead as a result of the wrath of his own nation.

The blunder committed by the behind-the-scene masters of these treacherous treaties is that they cannot or do not want to understand that the objectives of some of the Arab leaders are not synonymous with those of their people. The people in the Middle East will back their statesmen whenever they feel that the notions and concepts of the rulers correspond with theirs, it said, and added that but when their objectives are in conflict with those of the government, people's support of the statesmen cannot long last.

It is due to this divergence of attitude of the Egyptian Government and nation that the Cairo rulers have been embarrassed by the ever-growing Islamic movement in the country for years, said the paper. Al-Sadat was chosen by the Zionists to conclude a peace deal because for years Egypt was the frontline state in the campaign against Zionists and 'Arafat for being the leader of the PLO, the symbol of Palestinian resistance.

Today King Husayn has been chosen to repeat this treacherous senario because his country hosts the highest number of Palestinian population compared to other Arab countries. About half of the Jordanian population are originally Palestinians, hence, it is important for the Zionists to reconcile with the Jordanian leaders in order to influence the public opinion in that country, concluded the daily.

Radio Notes U.S.-Israeli Goals

NC2707081894 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 27 Jul 94

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentaries Group]

[Text] The Western and Zionist mass media continue to follow the meeting between King Husayn of Jordan and Zionist Prime Minister Rabin with a propaganda fanfare

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and commotion and American officials portray the event as significant. U.S. President Bill Clinton has said that the visit is a great development, while Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who recently returned from his Middle East tour, has described the Jordanian-Israeli summit as a great success scored by Washington's Middle East policies.

Jordan is not an active and determining factor in the Middle East crisis and, as admitted by the heads of Jordan and of the Zionist regime, they have held several meetings. The recent meeting was significant only because it was overt. In view of these realities, why is the West attaching such importance to the event?

An end to the state of war between Jordan and Israel has been in effect for the past 25 years; it is nothing new. By preventing operations by Palestinian guerrillas against Israel on its territory and by not participating in the 1973 war against the Zionist regime, Jordan has made its border the safest for Tel Aviv.

Political analysts believe that America and Israel are happy that Jordan has overtly adhered to the compromise process, not because it has created a fundamental change in regional equations, but because, with the expansion of the compromise process in the Middle East, America and Israel can pursue their objectives more confidently in the region.

The comment by the U.S. national security adviser, that America's duty in the post-Cold War era is to confront Islamic fundamentalism and that this objective can only be achieved if the Middle East crisis is solved and normal relations established between Israel and the Arabs, shows the objectives America is pursuing in expanding the compromise process in the Middle East.

After the disintegration of the East Bloc, America considers Islamic awakening—a spontaneous regional movement to achieve independence and end dependence—as the major threat and says that by removing the organizational axes in the Islamic world, especially the axes for the liberation of holy Jerusalem, it is trying to pave the way to crush this all-embracing movement and thus continue its plundering interests.

Israel Said Trying To Profit From London Bomb

LD2707111994 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1002 GMT 27 Jul 94

[Political commentary entitled "Israel's policies to put pressure on Hizballah"]

[Text] Following a huge explosion that occurred at the London embassy of the regime occupying Jerusalem, Yitzhaq Rabin, that regime's prime minister, immediately accused Islamic movements, especially Lebanon's Hizballah and the Islamic Republic of Iran, of being behind the bombing.

In the opinion of political analysts, accusing Islamists of this bombing, even before British police have found who was behind it, shows that that regime is trying to make political capital of such incidents to justify its current acts of aggression and its possible future attacks against its opponents in the region.

The way in which the explosion occurred at the Zionist embassy in London has not become clear yet, because the explosion occurred in the embassy's car park and, in view of the security provisions made at the embassy, vehicles are prevented from stopping around the embassy. Also, because there are several embassies in the region and a number of the members of the British royal family in the area, vehicle traffic is basically forbidden in the area.

This kind of behavior by the Zionist regime was also seen in response to an explosion a week ago in Argentina and in a Panamanian passenger aircraft. The regime accused Iran and Hizballah of involvement several moments after the explosion, whereas subsequent details falsified such links and, rather, pointed the finger of accusation more toward neo-Nazis.

The cause of this behavior by the Zionist regime may be attributed to several factors. Accusations are made against Lebanon's Hizballah because the steadfast struggle of Hizballah and the Islamic resistance in southern Lebanon against the Zionist occupiers has thrown light on the aggressive nature of that aggressive regime and, by inflicting consecutive blows against the occupying forces and their mercenaries, has put severe pressure on that regime.

In addition, the crushing tit-for-tat measures taken by Hizballah in response to the attacks of the aggressor and occupying Zionist forces have, thus far, hampered the effectiveness of that regime's aggressive measures aimed at imposing compromise and unfair conditions on Lebanon and Syria. For this reason, the Zionist regime presents Hizballah as the main obstacle to compromise in the region.

The Zionist regime's action in accusing Iran of the recent terrorist operations against Zionist centers may also be seen within the same framework. Iran's stance in rejecting the existence of the usurper Zionist regime should probably not be seen by Tel Aviv as being very important because Iran is situated at a great geographical distance from the occupied territories of Palestine. Nevertheless, the extensive links between the Muslim people of the region and Islamic movements and the Islamic revolution and its slogans of liberation have created a situation in which the faction favoring compromise is not given any legitimacy by the Muslim people of the region. This situation has weakened and undermined the bases for the continuation of the compromise.

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Bulgaria To Sign Agreement for Purchase of Oil

LD2707084994 Tehran IRNA in English 0426 GMT 27 Jul 94

[Text] Tehran, July 27, IRNA—Bulgarian Ambassador to Tehran Ivan Petkov in a meeting with Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs Morteza Mohammad Khan here Tuesday [26 July] evening voiced his country's readiness to directly purchase oil from Iran. He said his country will sign an agreement with Iranian authorities for the purchase of one million tons [as received] of oil in a near future. Petkov said that volume of trade exchange between the two countries has dropped from the previous dlrs. 800 million to less than dlrs. 100,000 at present.

Mohammad Khan in reply said that the Islamic Republic of Iran was not satisfied with the present level of trade between the two countries but stressed that such issues should not hinder promotion of Tehran-Sofia bilateral relations in other fields. The Islamic Republic of Iran, he stressed, is interested in expansion of economic and commercial cooperation with Bulgaria and in increase trade volume between the two countries.

Bushehr Plant Said 'Solely' for Electricity

LD2707102794 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 27 Jul 94

[Text] Following U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Robert Carlucci's remarks about cooperation between Russia and the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI] to complete the Bushehr nuclear power station and his opposition to this cooperation, the Iranian Atomic Energy Agency announced in a statement: The expression of such viewpoints by U.S. officials is nothing new, and we have always witnessed the U.S. hostilities in various forms.

The statement also referred to the documented articles of the nuclear non-proliferation treaty and the explicit remarks of the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] officials and the official reports released by the IAEA confirming that all nuclear activities of the IRI are peaceful. It says in view of this: The Bushehr nuclear power station, which has absorbed billions of dollars of investment so far, is being built solely to generate electricity. The IRI has accepted that its operations must remain under the supervision of the IAEA's experts, and utterance of such remarks by U.S. officials is a blatant violation of other countries' rights and international commitments and shows their ignorance of international treaties.

Bank Official Denies Counterfeiting U.S. Dollars

LD2607175694 Tehran IRNA in English 1701 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Text] Tehran, July 26, IRNA—An official from the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) here Tuesday rejected the recent allegation of the English weekly SUNDAY TIMES on Iran's involvement in conterfeiting U.S. dollars.

Speaking to IRNA, the official who prefered to remain anonymous, said that the repeated claims against Iran over its involvement in releasing of the forged dollars was part of a series of anti-Iran propaganda engineered by the West which was from time to time reflected by the western mass media.

Some American sources had already claimed that Iran, Syria and Lebanon were cooperating on counterfeiting the U.S. dollar, said the official, adding that the claim was officially rejected by the CBI's authorities then who had called the allegations as "baseless" since Iran essentially "lacks" the necessary techniques and equipment to do so.

The weekly has quoted some U.S. intelligence officers in its latest issue as saying that Iran, cooperating with North Korea, was involved in counterfeiting the U.S. dollars.

The CBI official further noted that the allegation was a mere fabrication by the SUNDAY TIMES.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Outlines Tasks for IRNA

LD2607182094 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani today met editors, staff, and heads of foreign bureaus of IRNA. During the meeting he said that some of the grave and sensitive responsibilities of the IRNA organization include: Defending the values of the Islamic system; providing information; enhancing people's awareness; avoiding either too little or too much attention to reporting various news items; and finally, bearing in mind matters of expediency when providing news of events and of political and social currents. He also stressed the important role and status of IRNA in reflecting the realities of the Islamic system and confronting the enemies' propaganda ploys.

The president expressed satisfaction with IRNA's overall performance during the years of Islamic revolution. Referring to the importance and value of news gathering and transmission in the society, he said that honesty, integrity, and proper and timely expediency are some of the important factors for the success of news production and transmission in the Islamic system. He then considered people's awareness of the realities of their country and the world as a great asset for all the news media.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani referred to the fact that the enemies of the Islamic revolution, headed by Zionism and the global arrogance, have started a propaganda war against the Islamic Republic of Iran. He said: By spreading false news and rumors, the enemies intend to portray Iran's islamic society as superstitious, sentimental, and irrational, and make the world believe that

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Islam is incapable of managing the country and society. He stressed that Iran has in practice proven that it is able to present to the world a successful model of Islamic government and continue its path of reconstructing and developing the society while at the same time preserving all its sacred values.

The president added: The huge wave of venomous propaganda in the world, in which—unfortunately—some domestic news media have unwittingly joined, intends to weaken the people's revolutionary enthusiasm and disappoint the followers of Islamic revolution throughout the world. This makes it necessary that with proper planning, political awareness, proper selection of news, and finally, adopting a dynamic approach to news sensibilities, IRNA and the other news media should deprive the enemies of this opportunity.

At the beginning of the meeting, Mr. Verdinejad, the managing director of IRNA, presented a report about the activities of the newsagency.

Mines Minister Gives Quarterly Production Figures

LD2307183494 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 23 Jul 94

[Text] During the first three months of this year [beginning 21 March], 1,097,496 kg of saleable steel products were produced in the country. Announcing this information, Minister of Mines and Metals Mahluji added that this figure represented an 18 percent increase over the comparable period last year.

He said that during this period, 28,294 tonnes of molten aluminum and 22,233 tonnes of molded aluminum have been produced in the country, representing a 26 percent and a 5 percent growth respectively over the comparable period last year. He said that, during the first three months of this year, 6,012,186 tonnes of raw material had been extracted under the auspices of Iran's national copper industries company; from this figure, 70,206 tonnes of a variety of copper products had been produced.

The minister of mines and metals added: during this period, over 113 kg of gold; 4,689 kg of lead; and about 117 tonnes of cathodic zinc sheets have also been produced in the country.

Economic Roundtable Discusses Five-Year Plans

LD2507152694 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1837 GMT 23 Jul 94

[Unscheduled "Economic Roundtable" with Mas'ud Roghani Zanjani, head of the Budget Organization; Mohsen Nurbakhsh, vice president for economic affairs; Seyyed Morteza Nabavi, Majles deputy and editor of RESALAT; Engineer Mohammad Hashem Rahbari, Majles deputy and member of Majles Budget Commission, and unidentified moderator; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [Moderator] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Greetings to the dear viewers of the Economic Roundtable programs. I hope you are all well and ready to stay with us to the end of tonight's program. The topic of discussion tonight is a review of the performance of the First Five-Year Economic, Social, and Cultural Development Plan [FDP] for our country as well as an overall look at the Second Five-Year Development Plan [SDP], which at the moment is being reviewed by various commissions at the respected Islamic Majles the final results of which, God willing, will soon be brought to your attention as an amendment to the SDP.

In connection with a general review and critique of the FDP, we have invited some respected guests here. To begin with, allow me to introduce the respected guests who are in the studio before going into tonight's topic and the questions: his eminence Mr. Rowghani, our country's respected vice president and respected head of our Planning and Budget Organization; and Dr. Mohsen Nurbakhsh, respected vice president for economic affairs. And from the Majles, from this end, Engineer Mohammad Hashem Rahbari, the respected deputy for Tehran, and member of the Planning and Budget Committee as well as a member of the Joint [talfiq] Committee for the Review and Adoption of the SDP and Majles representative at the Economic Council. Next to him is Engineer Seyyed Morteza Nabavi, respected deputy from Tehran who is a member of the Majles Economy and Fiscal Committee as well as the Majles representative at the Committee for Regulating Foreign the Currency Market and the acting head of the Majles Research Center.

First, I would like to thank the gentlemen for taking part in tonight's program. Our discussion tonight is a general one on the macro issues of the FDP. God willing, we will deal with it in detail in later programs. We have chosen our respected guest in consideration of the topic of discussion: The Planning and Budget Organization. Dr. Nurbakhsh was in the Majles and in the government and his duties lay mostly in the domain of macroeconomics. Mr. Rahbari and Mr. Nabavi were active in committees related to that issue.

The first issue we would like to raise in this discussion is what outlooks must dominate a development plan on the macroeconomic level? What should a macroeconomic development plan aim for? Would the respected Majles deputies, Mr. Rahbari or Mr. Nabavi first speak about expectations [from such a plan] so that later we see how those aims have been accommodated in the FDP and then what has been done afterwards.

[Nabavi] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Greetings to the noble Iranian nation. An initial, general expectation from a development plan is to make

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the best use of the state resources, whether manpower or other resources, so that the way is paved for the moral and material development of the community. The issue of social justice also enters into this. That is, the distribution of income must be such that social justice, which is the most important topic in our beliefs, is secured, as well as employment, especially for the young generation, since our community is principally a young community. As far as possible, the state sources of income should be released from its principal dependence on oil; exports should expand; government budgets should become balanced. For that purpose the size of the government should become smaller and more efficient. The people should be attracted to participate and invest more. In order for development to be realized we should be placed in conditions of economic stability. That entails the control of inflation so the the way is paved for investment. We should also have a reasonable production growth in the country so that every day becomes better than the day before. Those on the whole are the expectations from an economic development plan.

[Moderator] Thank you. Now, Mr. Zanjani: You will certainly agree will all the instances that he has raised; which of these have also been considered in the FDP? Please tell us how much attention has been paid to those issues?

[Zanjani] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. [passage omitted] Let us look at the problems we had during the FDP which did not allow us to make use of good resources. Of course, objectives were set in the FDP in accordance with those problems. During the FDP, while we had come out of a war, the most important topics of discussion by all circles in that atmosphere was reconstruction of damages which had resulted from the war as well as the economic reconstruction. [passage omitted] Another topic at that juncture referred to the national product. The war had directed all of our resources in a special direction. We had a negative rate of growth for the national product in the year starting 21 March 1988. Thus, one of the long-term and great objectives of the FDP was the growth of the national product. [passage omitted]

Another issue then, as now, was inflation, at that time because the state had no production. In addition, the government borrowed from the Central Bank, and the money in circulation [naqdinegi] in the national economy grew more than the requirements of the national product. All of this fanned the flames of inflation. That was also one of the important issues.

Another point is a variable in our national economy: oil. That is one of our national strategies in all development plans. It does not only cover the FDP but will be repeated in other development plans. If there is time later I will say why that should be repeated in other development plans. At the moment it has to be relied upon. We must make our foreign currency resource independent of oil as much as we can. Hence the development of non-oil exports which was one of the macroobjectives of the FDP. Since the factor affecting the money in circulation was the government fiscal policies, a specific objective was set with regard to the state budget and that was to reduce the budget deficit. That is an objective that must be dealt with. In summary, all of that, besides the issue of the war reconstruction and other things that are within the objectives of the FDP, revolve around the growth of the national product. The total combination of policies which will result in an increase of our national product was one of the macroobjectives of the FDP. Those were the objective. Now if we are to discuss the performance, I will deal with it.

[Moderator] I will come to that. So, in addition to what Mr. Nabavi said, you have given the difficult conditions under which the FDP was approved at that time and was implemented.

Mr. Rahbari, with regard to the difficult conditions that Mr. Zanjani mentioned and the axis to which Mr. Nabavi referred, do you think that the FDP was in line with such conditions and goals?

[Rahbari] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. I also greet dear viewers. I should mention one point: Before the FDP was drawn up and approved by the Islamic Consultative Majles, the Planning and Budget Organization and the Majles began some work on planning, which was not completed because of the war. After the acceptance of UN Resolution 598, specifically on the command of His Eminence the Imam Khomeyni, a reconstruction council was created to deal with the reconstruction of damages caused by the war as well as economic reconstruction. The aims of the FDP derived from the approval of the council which were also approved in practice by His eminence the Imam. However, the question of how successful we were on that plan is arguable.

I would like to refer to two points Mr. Zanjani mentioned. One is that to choose production as the sole aim is, I believe, not a correct argument. Production can be an important indicator for us, but more important than that is the method of distribution. Concentrating solely on the production increase, without clarifying what sections of the society benefit from it, is naturally unacceptable to the people. It is natural that they the people themselves are aware that social, political, and even economic problems will be caused. Therefore, we should also specifically stress the distribution method.

Another point mentioned was the money in circulation as a contributing factor to the government budget deficit. Yes, in those conditions 50.1 percent of the government budget came from borrowing. But we should also mention there, apart from the debt, the order of the government debts to other departments, such as social security and pension organizations, and so on. We should also assess their trend. Another issue is the level of government companies' debts to the banking system and where

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those debts stand today. Or whether any of the government companies that received their capitals from the government have now returned any of them or not? Or that in fact all those factors contributed to the growth of the money in circulation, which contributed to our failure in achieving the aims of the FDP, namely controlling the growth of the money in circulation, prices, and inflation. We have figures for these. We were supposed to achieve 3.9 percent money in circulation, but now we have reached 22.9 percent. The officials are more in contact with these figures, and the people feel them even more.

I should also make another reference to production. One section of what we gained was not achieved through production, but through imports. More can be said on the shape of the imports.

Another point that was not mentioned is the discussion about our payment schedules. My feeling is that we should pay serious attention to our payment schedules. It is correct that our non-oil exports increased, but our imports grew even more, so much so that today we have more problems with our payment schedules than we had at the beginning of the plan. This will have an effects on our economic problems.

[Moderator] Mr. Rahbari mentioned a number of points that need to be discussed. Dr. Nurbakhsh, in determining and setting out objectives, in addition to what Mr. Nabavi, Mr. Zanjani, and Mr. Rahbari referred to, what other factors should have been taken into account; then, God willing, we begin the discussion on performance.

[Nurbakhsh] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Thank you for the opportunity to take part in this program. Let me summarize your question and our friends' response in this way: Under what conditions did we begin the FDP, from the point of view of the prevalent atmosphere; and on what foundations were the macro-objectives that Mr. Zanjani referred to based on; and what are we faced with in practice at the moment? Mr. Rahbari dealt with some points that in principle should come during the discussion on performance.

On the whole, in any development plan two subjects must be taken into consideration. One is the issue of resources, since after all the main contributor to growth is investment, and for investment you need resources. Therefore the question that must be addressed in any development plan is from where you will be securing your resources. From the sale of the national wealth? From the national savings? From foreign facilities, whether in the form of loans or foreign investment? Those are the essential questions from the point of view of resources and investment, which are in reality the engines and generators of economic growth, that we must answer and see how they have been answered in the FDP.

I draw your attention to the fact that in 1989 we began under circumstances—because of investments as well as economic growth—the average growth rate of the three previous was something like minus 5.7 percent. That is, the state GNP was reduced by 5 percent every year. If we take into consideration that the population is growing at a rate of more than 2 percent, then a negative 5 percent GNP means that the community's welfare has been reduced by the same rate. Therefore, we must see what principles have been regulated by the plan to restart that generator engine and how it intends to begin.

The second issue that must be considered alongside that move is the framework of policies. That is, is the move balanced or not. I mean, are the investments that we are carrying out, which are within a policy-making framework, such that will bring us to a more balanced state? I will come to the characteristics of a balanced growth. Or are we going to have a less stable growth? Some of the points that Mr. Nabavi dealt with—the social justice, the control of inflation, the reduction of unemployment—are in reality characteristics of the outcome of a stable growth, if we attain that. [passage omitted] I believe that the framework chosen for the FDP has in fact laid some foundations which have created a constant and stable growth for us, and we will be able to see its result better in the SDP. In fact, the same framework should be used for the the completion of the task. In assessing the performance of the FDP we can deal with some of the effects of that as well as the updating policies of the SDP.

Let me note that within those policy-making frameworks there is a discussion about moving from economic imbalance to economic balance. In fact, there are two prominent characteristics in economic imbalance. One is an imbalance from the point of view of resources for domestic supply and demand, which mainly manifests itself in the debate about the government resources and expenditure and in the debate about the budget deficit and finding out what the performance has been like. The other is in connection with the issue of balance of payments, to which Mr. Rahbari referred. One is the domestic balance and the other the foreign balance. If we can get them to a point where they can create a stable situation for us, or if the economic indicators become such that we reach toward achieving those two balances, we can say that we have a stable and balanced growth which the various strata of the community also enjoy in a desirable fashion. I think this framework was intended to be set up within the parameters of the objectives and policies in the FDP.

Now Mr. Zanjani can probably best deal the debate on the performance of the FDP. I also have some points to make during the discussion on the performance.

[Moderator] Well, this question on the debate on the aims of FDP is for Mr. Nabavi. We have not yet finished the debate on the aims so we will not yet go into the debate on the execution of the FDP. [passage omitted] Now Mr. Nabavi, we have not yet finished our debate on

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the aims of FDP, but there is another question you might be kind enough to answer. Dr. Nurbakhsh referred to the issue of resources in planning and the need initially to evaluate these resources upon which aims could be decided. Did we choose too many aims and priorities in the FDP in relation with the existing resources? Well, what I see here is that the goals are much greater than the resources we had available. What is your opinion?

[Nabavi] Regarding the general debates on the FDP: First, the FDP is coordinated, and its success lies in the coordination of everyone involved in the plan and their support for each other. In other words, success lies in a national will to execute the plan. Coordination between the government, the Majles, and the judiciary and then coordination between this collective and the people is needed first. All should believe in it. Everyone should understand the aims of the plan, and everyone should be determined to achieve the goals and pay the necessary cost. Here we should thank the honorable government and its experts, in particular those in the Budget Organization, who sketched the plan, which was later approved by the Majles and executed, and who later prepared the SDP. The Majles too is determined to be positively effective in the plan and has therefore studied and approved a new set of internal rules and regulations for the debate on the plan. Since some things are being said in society, I think it is necessary for me to explain that the new rules and regulations aim to activate all parliamentary commissions in the debate—although the Budget and Planning Commission which was already active; and finally to allow the Joint Commission, compromised of members from the Commission on Budget and Planning and other commissions, to coordinate the views of the commissions and to bring it to the open session. This indicates the determination of the Majles to support the plan as far as possible, to support and approve the good things and the suitable policies of the government, and to execute the guidance of the great leader as much as possible, as well as to actualize the high goal that belongs to all of the officials, foremost among them the great of the leader of the revolution, which is a serious support for the deprived and establishment of social justice. All countries, in their period of construction, have to go by certain rules to be successful. That is, to consume as little as possible and save for greater investment as much as possible. We have not been able to create a national will from government and Majles level down to the people to make us start saving and to make us determined to put up with the difficulties of the plan, which are inevitable after an imposed war and a period of economic reconstruction. These would be the basis of a steady growth along the moral values which are a part of our revolution. Of course, all of these need a lot more explaining, and we hope they will be dealt with in the SDP.

I also think that for a successful plan it is necessary for us to have a speedy and accurate data system. We suffer from a lack of data. Our planning system has been a usefull experience, and it must be reformed and completed. An evaluation system was somewhat lacking in the FDP. The Majles was not receiving sufficient reports to analyze the advance of the plan in order to make the necessary corrections. We hope the evaluation system will be placed at the heart of the SDP with the help of experts from the government and the Budget Organization. Finally, if the decision-making systems, in particular the economic decision-making system, need any legal reforms, as envisioned by the government and supported by the Majles, these should be implemented in order to prepare for a successful approval and execution of the plan.

Your question, which concerns the management of the country's resources, is correct. One of the resources, as his excellency Dr. Nurbakhsh has pointed out, is foreign investment. Using the resources with proper management would be excellent, but this should not mean that the use of foreign resources should be short term or that their expiration dates should be allowed to pile up, as they did in 1993 and 1994, causing our inability to repay. We hope the management of foreign currency resources and foreign currency policies are corrected so as to allow us to properly use foreign resources and capital. The percentage of the long term resources should be much more than the short term, which are basically [word indistinct], and here the Majles, God willing, is planning to make the correct decisions.

Another resource is the income from oil. This income was envisioned to be more than it is, and this disturbed the forecasts and calculations. However, Majles used this experience in the current budget. Now if the income proves to be more than what was envisioned, we can prepare other scenarios.

The use of bank resources is common. People invest their capital there, and the gentlemen pointed this out. I think we should correct our direction here somewhat. We should leave the bank resources for greater use of the private sector rather than the government companies which are not able to repay in due course. Otherwise, it is true that budget deficiency is reduced. However, when the debt of state companies to the central bank and the banking system adds up it causes inflation, the very thing that our dear colleagues in governments are avoiding. Obviously, when there is extraordinary inflation, the basis for investment and growth is lost. On the use of people's capital: I think we have not had proper capital markets. Of course, these have been proposed among the goals of the SDP, but there are some problems here which must be addressed in the SDP.

I should add a point. We were in a hurry to do a lot of good in a short time. We therefore started more projects than our resources, economic or otherwise, allowed. We started many projects without sufficient resources and will therefore not reach their final goal in the allocated time and will thus cause inflation and waste resources. Again, because we were in a hurry, we did not study the

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projects from technical and economical points of view. When we look back now, we might think we should not have started these projects. Here again we need a national will to support the Budget Organization and to look at the projects which could be divided to several groups. Some must be followed up. Some are not that important if our resources do not allow. God willing, the Budget Organization will help here. There are also some projects that must be shut down. There is no excuse, and no one would object if some other projects were ended. If such an ordered division is made, the Majles will make decisions. God willing, Majles will not pressure for an increase in the volume or number of the projects.

[Moderator] Excuse me, I think our discussion is loosing its coherence and objective. The phrase, doing a great deal in a short space of time, is what Mr. Nabavi stressed when he discussed the SDP, performance, and other issues. I would like to get into the agenda of the discussion which concerns performance. I would like Mr. Rahbari to continue his remarks on the objectives of the FDP, and then we can end our discussion on the objectives of the FDP.

[Rahbari] Mr. Nabavi mentioned a few points refering to the remarks of Mr. Nurbakhsh. Is the main objective to gain capital, be it in the form of national wealth from inside the country or outside? From inside, such as national wealth or savings, or from outside, such as various kinds of loans or investments? Or is the management of the resources the main issue? In fact, we are talking solely about the national wealth. Are we using our oil resources in the best possible way, whether during the plan or before it? In the same way we should also look at foreign investment or foreign loans we have received. The art of getting a loan and collecting savings is by itself valuable, but their being used in the best possible way is more important. [passage omitted]

[Nurbakhsh] I should explain something regarding the point that Mr. Rahbari made, because I think it would help your own argument. I think you did not pay due attention to the two sections of my argument. I did not go into the FDP or our performance. As a principle, I pointed out that there is a debate on resources and a debate on the framework of economic policies, and the latter determines the ways that the resources are exploited. For example, it is said that in the context of policies subsidies should be eliminated—the subsidy for energy for example—or that it is policy to transfer the affairs to the private sector. One is the software within which the hardware operates. The two parts are necessary for all projects. I did not say that the use of resources lies at the heart of the matter. In fact, the resources go back to the origins: the sale of national wealth, that is, the sale of oil, or the use of private savings or bank credits, or foreign resources. Whether they are good or bad must be discussed in the debate on performance. Your excellency pointed out the loan from the World Bank. But we are not arguing this or asking if we could have refrained from taking loans if we had saved. We are debating resources and the policy framework which would allow a better use of resources that would lead us to a steady and continues growth. This I could discuss if necessary.

[Rahbari] What is the main issue? The capital or its use? I am asking whether Singapore has progressed because of an increase in capital or better efficiency? I have your sentence here: The principle source of growth is investment.

[Nurbakhsh] No, no, no.

[Zanjani] I do not think the two debates on capital and efficiency contradict each other. Capital goes where there is efficiency. They are together. I think we should return to the way that the moderator was guiding the debate. I should explain some things about the performance of the plan. I think the gentlemen are in a hurry to point out and debate the failures of the plan.

[Rahbari] But you gentlemen were the planners.

[Several voices heard speaking at the same time]

[Moderator] Mr. Zanjani, you can speak before we reach the debate on performance. We have discussed the issue of aims in our talk. Mr. Nurbakhsh pointed out the debate on resources. Mr. Rahbari came up with some problems with it and put forward his questions. Mr. Nurbakhsh wanted to point out that the debate on resources should be clarified. If we take into account the aims, priorities, and resources available to you, was there in fact the possibility of suitable planning at all? Would you have had problems anyway? Was this not the case?

[Zanjani] I should discuss the culture of planning here. [passage omitted] One of the aims that was mentioned was social justice. The point made in the SDP regarding social justice is the argument that hidden subsidies should be paid to all strata and that everyone should receive these. It was not clear who was getting what. In the SDP, in order to implement social justice in the true sense of the word, it was decided to eliminate subsidies and to direct them to those strata which should be really supported, as a part of policies which could really implement social justice. God willing, we shall discuss this in the debate on performance. There were also a number of articles as a follow up for social aims and toward the elimination of deprivation and implementation of social justice. This was the article on deprived regions. One of the important articles in the FDP addressed regions recognized as deprived. The government was responsible for directing investment toward four areas—electricity supply, health, education, and road construction—in order to help end the deprivation of these areas. These were among the policies of social justice.

[Moderator] Since time is short and we should reach a conclusion soon, I will try to review our debate before we continue. At the beginning, we discussed resources and said that the government should determine the resources

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it has to work with. Following was the debate on aims and priorities that must be chosen according to the existing resources. We also discussed the conditions within which resources are available, priorities and aims are chosen, and plans are made. So we discussed the issues of resources, conditions, aims, and priorities. Now, in order to determine how to reach the aims within the given resources and conditions, it is necessary to sketch the framework for the policies and the needed mechanisms. These were the four main axes of the debate so far. If we accept the issues and do not repeat them, we must ask this question regarding the performance of the government and the Budget Organization. Did it forecast the resources correctly? And given the existing conditions, the framework, and the aims, how did the government perform? Now we shall continue the debate within the context of these four factors.

[Rahbari] There was an issue to which Mr. Zanjani referred, that is, the price mechanism. I should say something in this regard. Let us not forget the conditions imposed by the war. Many power stations, refineries, factories, jetties, ports, and television transmitters were damaged; and they could obviously not play their part in production in those circumstances. [passage omitted] It was natural that when the war ended the government would move toward reconstructing all of that and to make vast amounts of investment to this end. This obviously has nothing to do with prices. It is a national duty. [passage omitted]

Another point is the question of management to which I referred. Look, today, we hear from many of our towns that we have had very good growth in the dairy sector. This shows that those people who have received government assistance in the livestock business and so on have used it for production over the past few years, and we can see the benefit now. However, we do have problems in the processing industry sector. [passage omitted]

[Nabavi] You see, there is no doubt that true prices will give the producers the necessary signal to produce more or less. The economic readjustment policy should affect prices of goods, services, and the foreign currency rate. The pricing policy will be effective when the private sector is allowed to grow in the economy. That is, the planned privatization of the first economic development plan should have been realized. In other words, the government should have reduced its expenditure. In such a system, you should have passed laws against monopolies. Now you judge whether you have done this in line with economic readjustment policy. This is the main problem. That is, the government should reduce the size of the state sector by privatization and cuts. We have not been very successful in this field. Let us join hands and realise this goal in the second plan. [passage omitted]

[Zanjani] I would like to make brief references to a number of points because it seems that we are short of time.

[Moderator] Yes, please.

[Zanjani] Mr. Nabavi accepted that conditions were not prepared for transparent prices, which is a different topic, and when we reach the topic of performance....

[Nabavi, interrupting] It is not a separate topic.

[[Zanjani] But we did not have a discussion on performance. So Mr. Nabavi at least accepted that prices were correct. But about the examples that he gave I would like to say that our supervision was good and provided foreign currency [U.S. dollar] at seven tomans [70 rials]. When the rate of foreign currency exchange is based on seven tomans, the investor also justifies its production capacity on the basis of the foreign currency exchange rate of seven tomans, and that is what determines the production capacity. [passage omitted]

I should mention that during the Iran-Iraq war we controlled wheat prices, because then it was private sector production, and we had no production growth. As soon as the esteemed Majles dictated [previous word in Latin] that we should provide price guarantees, and as soon as the government provided price guarantees, we achieved the 11-million-tonne wheat production that we see today.

Another point mentioned was about government investments. Since our discussion focuses on economic decision making, when at a certain juncture a noneconomic incident takes place, such as war, which is not an economic move bringing destruction, from the economic point of view that incident is an economic expenditure. That is an expenditure which should be added to the total expenditure. But if the government wants to invest, when it seeks to justify a plan to the Majles, can it do that independently of the cost? The Majles deputies who approved the bill concerning the building of the eighth refinery said that they do not care for its cost? Because we physically import, then we should do the same domestically.... [pauses] If the cost of the refinery is too high, the esteemed Majles deputy is dictated by the national interest to say that we should import. So we see that the esteemed Majles deputies also ask the government for prices. Meanwhile, the gentlemen know that, in the same topic of energy, we are losing so much resources due to low prices, which is a separate issue that we can perhaps also deal with it.

[Nurbakhsh] I wish only to mention one point: When we talk of privatization, we must not only pretend and stage a show. Privatization should really involve the people in works and should create competition. As a result, product quality will improve and prices will come down for the consumers. Otherwise, if we were to make workers of a factory owners of their factory as a monopoly, they would again have the upper hand against consumers. In such a case the state controlled factory would have worked better. We would naturally be against such method of transfer. I think Mr. Nabavi

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agrees with me that in order to reduce government expenditure, we should prepare the conditions to involve the people.

[Moderator] Thank you gentlemen. Since we are short of time, we end the discussion tonight. We hope to meet the gentlemen again to continue the discussion on achievements of the First Five-Year Economic Development Plan in future programs. [passage omitted]

Nepal

Prime Minister on Possible Party Expulsion

BK2607081894 Hong Kong AFP in English 1521 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Text] Kathmandu, July 25 (AFP)—Nepal's beleaguered caretaker prime minister Girija Prasad Koirala said Monday [25 July] that he would appeal to the people and to his ruling Nepali Congress (NC) party if it expels him this week.

Congress President Krishna Prasad Bhattarai called the meeting for Wednesday with the main objective of expelling the increasingly-unpopular Koirala, said a highly-placed NC source.

Asked what he would do if he were expelled by the party's central working committee (CWC) gathering, Koirala said: "I will go to the people to obtain their fresh mandate. But I don't think that I am going to be expelled from my party."

The party's central committee "is not the supreme body" he added.

Nepali Congress General Secretary Mahendra Narayan Niddhi has moved against Koirala to restore the House of Representatives which he dissolved on July 11.

Niddhi submitted a letter to King Birendi on Saturday appealing for the reinstatement of parliament and for the dismissal of the interim prime minister, according to a party source.

Addressing a crowded press conference at his residence, Koirala said there was no constitutional provision for reinstating the dissolved parliament.

Nepal's political crisis has mushroomed since parliament was dissolved by the king at Koirala's suggestion. Strikes and demonstrations have followed the voting down of Koirala's government programme.

The NC and communist opposition have joined forces to try to get Koirala sacked and parliament recalled.

Koirala strongly criticized the six factions of the Nepal Communist Party for taking to the streets to demand the removal of his government.

"If democracy is being uprooted through street protests, there is no meaning to the parliamentary system," he said.

Pakistan

Commerce Minister Announces New Trade Policy

BK2607115994 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 26 Jul 94 pp 1,9

[Text] Karachi, July 25: The trade policy for 1994-95 was announced today by Federal Commerce Minister Mr. Ahmed Mukhtar incorporating what he called the "historical decisions" taken by the present government on restructuring the international trading system and the commitment made with the new world trading system.

Before announcing the new trade policy over television this afternoon, the Commerce Minister explained the principles on which the policy is based:

To prepare Pakistan's industrial firms for a freer global trading system emerging from the Uruguay Round negotiations and implementation of its agreements from 1995.

To provide a concessional tariff structure for the import of machinery and other items required by the export-oriented industries.

To enable the local industry to raise the quality of their products upto international level.

To liberalise control on economy enabling market forces to promote efficiency and create competition.

To reduce high tariffs so that domestic industry could compete with the international imported products.

To enhance production capabilities of import substitution and export-oriented industries.

To reduce the time lag between announcement of trade policy decisions and to translate them into legal instruments.

To develop trade with Africa, South America and the Central Asian States: a number of incentives are being provided.

Exporting companies have been allowed to enter into counter-trade agreements with the approval of State Bank of Pakistan.

The government to renegotiate the treaty on Afghanistan Transit Trade, which is expiring in August 1995.

Import of two-year old cars has been allowed for personal use under the Transfer of Residence Scheme subject to conditions.

Formal embargo on trade with South Africa has been lifted.

Foreign companies duly incorporated in Pakistan under the Companies Act have been permitted to register themselves as commercial importers much as they are eligible to be registered as exporters.

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EPB and its regional/subregional offices have been authorised to issue export authorisations for export of its items as un-accompanied baggage except for items which are banned for exports.

Customs authorities have been authorised to allow the export of goods on temporary basis for repair/replacement with the condition on re-import.

Monetary ceiling on the import of arms and ammunition which were fixed in 1982-83, have been enahnced by 300 per cent in rupee terms. This would help in discouraging under-invoicing. For the new importers of arms and ammunition, the ceiling of Rs. 5 million has been kept. Basis of licencing for newcomers will be announced later.

Parts of drilling rigs have been included in the list of items importable from India.

Import of pesticides, other than agricultural pesticides, which are in use in the country of origin/export or which ware registered in those countries have been allowed.

In order to curb the manufacture and use of narcotics drugs in the country, the import of certain substances has been restricted to industrial consumers only subject to entitlements to be determined by CBR in consultation with concerned ministry division.

Operation of the Raw Material Replenishment (RMR) scheme has been simplified. The condition of keeping the imported goods under the scheme in Customs bond has been done away with items covered by the scheme now can be imported on submission of a bank guarantee equivalent to the C and F value of the goods. The bank guarantees would be released on production of evidence of fulfiling export obligations.

Raw materials and intermediate products required for the manufacture of dyes, which hitherto were banned for import from India have been allowed to be imported.

Import of leather ball bladders, directly from India has been allowed against foreign exchange to be provided by foreign buyers of Pakistani leather balls.

Import of all pesticides included in the list of registered pesticides, as notified by the Ministry of Food and Agriculture will be permissible. Similarly-pharmaceuticals which are registered under the Drugs Act 1976 will be permissible for import.

The scheme of duty-free import of cars by disabled persons has been reinstated subject to safeguards to be exercised by the Ministry of Commerce against any possible misuse.

Imports up to 10,000 dollars equivalent have been allowed against foreign currency demand draft instead of letter of credit if desired by the importers.

Existing monetary ceiling of Rs. 25,000 on the import of samples has been enhanced per firm per annum to 3000 dollars equivalent. Import samples of pharmaceutical products will, however, remain subject to existing ceiling of Rs. 25,000. In case of export samples the monetary ceiling shall be 2000 dollars equivalent.

Import of raw fur-skins and tanned or dressed fur-skins of sheep, lambs, goats, kids calf and rabbit has been allowed. Fur skins of other animals and manufacturers thereof will remain banned.

Pre-recorded tapes (tapes and video), pre-recorded gramophone records and pre-recorded compact discs have been allowed to be imported.

The companies providing mobile phone service have been allowed to import transmission equipment subject to the condition that the companies have agreements with the concerned government agencies for supply of Cellular phone facility.

Import of penicillin 'G' has been allowed freely subject to admissible tariff.

The import of large-small agricultural tractors in CBU condition has been allowed without the condition of their being standardised.

The import of helicopters/aircrafts has been allowed for Flying Clubs, Charter/Aviation Services and Charitable Foundations having valid licences issued by the Ministry of Defence.

Import of second hand machinery by industrial consumers, construction organisations and commercial importers has been allowed without prior approval of the Ministry of Industries even in case where investment exceeds Rs 1,000 million or foreign equity is 50 per cent or more. However, for setting up specified industries, where approval of the Ministry of Industries is required, the existing provisions would continue. Imports by commercial imports will, however, be subject to safeguards to be announced.

The present distinction between commercial and industrial importers in so far as importability of items and leviable rate of duty is concerned, is being done away with except in specified cases.

Commercial banks have been authorised to condone import policy contraventions in specified cases.

Import authorisations issued by the Ministry of Commerce will remain valid for the currency of the Import Policy Order during which it was issued.

Importers have been allowed to import on the basis of invoices directly issued by foreign suppliers or indents issued by the indentors registered as importers under the provisions of Registration (Importers and Exporters) Order.

Spokesman Comments on Arrests of Ex-Army Staff

BK2707100694 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN OBSERVER in English 27 Jul 94 pp 1, 11

[Text] Islamabad—A spokesman of the Armed Forces on Tuesday [26 July] denied a newspaper report that the

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government took the Army into confidence before proceeding agqainst former Director Intelligence Bureau Brig (Retd) Imtiaz Ahmed and another official Maior (Retd) Amir.

When asked to comment, the spokesman said that the Armed Forces had nothing to do with the detention and had no knowledge of the government's move against the military officers.

Both the former military officers have been charged under Article 6 of the Constitution and face the accusation of high treason carrying death sentence. It is alleged that as military officers they were involved in a move to unseat a democratically-elected government of Benazir Bhutto.

Brig (Retd) Imtiaz has been taken into custody while Major (Retd) Amir is said to be still at large. A politician and former federal minister Malik M Naeem and a newsman Munir Ahmed has also been named in the FIR [First Information Report] but they have not yet been arrested.

Malik Naeem, who refused to apply for bail before arrest, describing the allegations as ridiculous, is expected in Islamabad sometime on Wednesday.

Local Chamber of Commerce Expands PRC Ties

BK2707011494 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 20 Jul 94 p 13

[Text] Islamabad, July 19 (APP): Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) and Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region of China Chamber of Commerce and Industry (XUARCCCI) Tuesday [26 July] signed a Memorandum of Understanding to promote bilateral cooperation in trade and industry between the two countries.

The document was signed by President ICCI, Shahid Rashid Butt and acting President XUARCCCI, Li Shang Dian, which came into force immediately.

Speaking on the occasion, Vice Manager, Xinjiang Iron and Steel Company, Yakepu Nasaier hoped that the businessmen of the two chambers will now be able to exchange more information and avail greater investment opportunities.

He invited all the Pakistani businessmen to explore the investment openings in Xinjiang and assured XUARCCCI's full cooperation in this regard.

"China and Pakistan are two friendly countries with rivers and mountains linking them together and having a long history of communication in culture and trade through the famous Silk Route," he added.

Nasier [as published] said he was honoured to head the first commercial investigation team to Pakistan and to unite the two chambers.

According to the memorandum signed Tuesday, the two chambers will exchange information about the quantum and flow of trade in each territory on annual basis. They will also identify quantity and types of goods and raw material in demand, presently and prospectively.

The two chambers will undertake market surveys in their areas and specify the problems and procedures that impede free trade flows between the two countries.

Each chamber will arrange visits of trade delegations and hold exhibitions and fairs. Proposals and procedures will be drawn up by each Chamber to focus on ways and means for promoting joint ventures and transfer of technology so as to boost the process of industrialisation in each territory.

Earlier, President ICCI, Shahid Rashid Butt briefed the delegation about the ICCI and said the cooperation between the two chambers will further strengthen the relations between China and Pakistan.

Editorial Views Arrest of Intelligence Personnel

BK2707003394 Karachi NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 26 Jul 94 p 3

[Editorial: "The Arrest of Former ISI Officers"]

[Text] The Federal Investigation Agency [FIA] has arrested Brigadier Imtiaz, former additional director of Inter Service Intelligence [ISI] and former chief of the Intelligence Bureau, and Mohammad Amir [as published, second referent item reports he evaded arrest], a former major commanding [title as published] of ISI, on charges of sedition and divulging official secrets. The FIA intends to arrest some more people on the same charges. Although reports of intelligence agency-related arrests are common in foreign countries, this is the first time in Pakistan that intelligence officers have been arrested. There had been a number of court cases relating to charges of sedition in the past. However, the current case should not turn out to be an act of vengeance, as the two officers were very active during the previous government. Therefore, their case should be heard in an open court instead of a closed one.

Interference by intelligence agencies in governmental and national affairs is a normal phenomenon in Pakistan and every government harassed its opposition by using these organizations. What remains to be seen is whether the intelligence agencies nowadays have repented adhering to their old behavior or if the roles of other officers in those agencies are clear. The government should ensure openness and uphold the requirements of law in dealing with this case.

Sri Lanka

Observers To Monitor Parliamentary Elections

BK2507120194 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Text] International observers are to be invited to monitor next month's parliamentary elections. A proposal to

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invite these observers has been unanimously endorsed by secretaries of political parties, leaders of independent groups, and their representatives. The election commissioner, Chandrananda de Silva, said that the monitoring team is due to arrive on the 10th of next month. It will comprise eminent men such as judges, senior lawyers, academics, election officials, diplomats, journalists, and administratives [as heard]. The observers will not function as representatives of their countries. They may receive representations of political parties or independent groups. A special secretariat is to be established for them. The observers will function in a voluntary capacity. They will submit a report on the poll and the vote count within a reasonable period of time.

Editorial Reviews Election Process

BK2407154394 Colombo VIRAKESARI in Tamil 14 Jul 94 p 2

[Editorial:"Exercise of Democracy"]

[Text] The fielding of candidates by various parties is over. As usual, in line with the democratic traditions, the propaganda machinery has started functioning at various levels.

Democracy is neither mere counting of heads nor an act of accomplishing the efforts to meet selfish ends.

It is not an easy task to create a situation wherein the people's power thinks independently and reflects its aspirations. We have witnessed it in the tides of democracy in several countries of the world.

Due to the contradictions that exist in the political process of the country, the island nation of Sri Lanka is at a crossroads today. The people are worried, as they are not in a position to analyze and decide about their future at any cost.

In a democratic setup, the foremost responsibility of the people's representatives is fulfilling the aspirations of the masses. Democracy is in crossroads today just because the people's representatives, contrary to this, attempted to take a ride in the name of people.

In the ensuing 10th general elections, 13 parties are competing. Besides, 26 independent groups have also plunged into the election arena. In all, 1,440 candidates are contesting the elections.

It is a good thing that so many people have come forward to serve the masses. In the past, this country had gone through the democratic exercise of (?one-party) and two-party administrative systems.

It augurs well that they have come forward to fulfill the aspirations of the people after winning the elections. At the same time, this contest in larger numbers is a good example to show to what extent this country is swayed by principles and contradictory tendencies of individuals.

It is a universal fact that the basic contradictions at national level are seen among the ethnic groups of the country.

These elections are going to prove that a lot of contradictions exist at all levels precluding any sort of unity in the country.

People are going to be flabbergasted by the election manifestos during the period between political campaigns and the day of elections. They tend to recall that in the past, election manifestos were good only until the elections and thereafter, in practice, they were gone with the wind.

Today, the people have a heavy responsibility before them. The decisions they make will, in fact, be the basis for the country's future stability.

This country has involved itself in the exercise of democracy during the past four decades. Let us hope that these elections will determine whether or not the people have the maturity to analyze everything thoroughly, think about their future profoundly, and act accordingly.

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